

Art 234M: Global History of Art II Methods Syllabus

Required Textbook: Sylvan Barnet, *A Short Guide to Writing about Art: 10th Edition*. 2011.

Course Description: In this course students apply the art historical concepts and methods from Art 234 lecture course. It reinforces the knowledge of methods unique to the art historical discipline including informed observation of physical objects combined with historical and formal analysis. Students will make use of appropriate research materials in the discipline and apply them in a contextual comparative essay. Art & Design Majors should be simultaneously enrolled in Art 234M.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Apply appropriate vocabulary and master concepts to describe and analyze works of art.
2. Demonstrate how ideas are communicated through visual forms, materials, and symbols.
3. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and historically about artifacts and express relevant contextual information through the writing process.
5. Learn how to critically evaluate research materials while gathering information for paper
6. Ability to work effectively at the beginning levels of art historical methods

What is this course *really* about? It asks that you successfully research and write an art history paper based on a comparison of two objects. As there are special conventions, vocabulary, and research sources in art history, students need to know what they are and how to use them especially since this course is a pre-requisite class for all upper level art history courses that will require more extensive research papers.

Grade: The grade for this course will be based on successfully completing a two- to three-page research paper. Guidelines will be distributed in class.

Requirements:

1. Read Sylvan Barnet pp. 8-35 and 36-45 to get some basic pointers on writing about art.
2. After I have distributed the guidelines, begin by reviewing resources on the MSUM library guide site especially set up for this course: <http://libguides.mnstate.edu/cat.php?cid=27643> and become familiar with the basic resources for locating appropriate research sources in the form of articles, books, reference sources for the paper. Read Sylvan Barnet chapter 12 "Writing a Research Paper," pp.265-298.
3. Once you have chosen which art works you will analyze, read chapter 4 "Analytic Thinking" from Sylvan Barnet pp. 69-134 (some parts are divided by media so you may skip over the portions that do not apply to your selected works).
4. Before you begin writing your paper, read Chapter 5 from Sylvan Barnet "Writing a Comparison" (pp. 135-148) to help you prepare for the paper.
5. Before completing your paper you should also review the following chapters:
Chapter 8 "Style in Writing," pp. 175-219
Review "Some Conventions of Language Usage" pp. 302-335. This section is especially useful and provides guidelines on formatting references, a checklist on how to avoid plagiarism etc.