Nebraska Wesleyan University

ARH 1040FYW Survey of Western Art History

Catalog

2026-2027

Course Description

This course is a general survey of artworks of “western” cultures from prehistory to the present. “Western” typically designates art produced in Europe or the Americas in the European tradition, but the term can be imprecise and problematic at times. We will explore why. This course provides an overview of both typical and exceptional artworks from the western tradition; artworks range from tiny to colossal, relatively ephemeral to permanent, crude-looking to meticulously crafted, and banal to sacred. We will typically discuss artworks in roughly chronological order. Ultimately students will learn the range of artworks produced by each culture, how those artworks were made, why they looked the way they did, and what functions they served. They will also develop the skills to analyze, discuss, and write about the visual arts.

Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Global
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: Global
Archway Curriculum: First-Year Curriculum: First-Year Writing
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Going Global Thread

Course Hours

4 hours

Departments

1. Art