

Welcome to LA Mission **Art 109 Online**, Section 0119.

I am Nila Lavasani and I will be your instructor for the course.

lavasnm@lamission.edu. (Use Private Messages in the ETUDES website)

By far the best way to reach me is through the Private Message on Etudes site. Once enrolled in class, please keep in mind, that I may not be able to respond to you if you send an email to my lavasnm@lamission.edu account.

I will respond to your emails within a 24-hour window, but I will try my best to answer as soon as possible. Private Messages sent on a Friday afternoon will be answered by Sunday evening.

Required Text Book:

We will use the web instead of a textbook.

The quality of material available online has guided the choice of art works included in the course. The specific web pages you need to read are linked in the modules; students may contribute to an annotated Webliography in the discussion area.

Course Description:

Art 109 considers the visual arts of Africa, the Pacific Ocean areas and the indigenous populations of North and South America in relation to their history, religion and general culture. We will focus on the social as well as religious contexts of art as a way of understanding the history of art as a broad cultural phenomenon greatly affecting our way of looking at the world.

SLO (Student Learning Outcomes):

1. We will deconstruct the impact of works of art in terms of their appearance. Analyze the function of art by these indigenous people within historical, religious and cultural contexts in order to develop aesthetic understanding and responsiveness.
2. Compare and contrast works of art and architecture of the indigenous people of Africa, Oceania and Ancient America/Meso-America in terms of style and function.

Course Objectives:

The faculty of Los Angeles Mission College has identified a set of college-wide Student Learning Outcomes--what we agree every student should learn at West. You can read all Student Learning Outcomes in the schedule of classes. Of course, different classes will each stress different outcomes, in somewhat different ways. Here is how I expect you to

progress towards Art 109's main student learning outcomes as listed in the Course Description Section:

Critical Thinking: Analyze art, differentiating fact from opinions, and using visual evidence.

Throughout the course, each of us will pause to identify our individual responses to works of art, and explain them to each other through visual analyses of the art.

Aesthetics: Use multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to experience and engage with the arts.

Our major modes of inquiry are stylistic analysis and the comparison of various historical situations in their impact on art. Our approaches to the experience of art will include reading about it and comparing what we read to images of the art, and writing to each other about what we see on the web and in a Museum (if applicable).

Cultural Diversity: Engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.

Engaging with the material Art 109 will always begin with looking carefully and thoughtfully. By studying their art, religions and customs, the student will develop greater awareness, deeper insights, and a better understanding for the differences that exist between peoples, and for the means of visual expression chosen by them.

Appreciation for the choices of others and developing an aesthetic responsiveness become important parts of the fabric of our personal as well as public lives.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

This online class covers the same material that a face-to-face class covers, and requires about the same length of time studying. Thus, a student should expect to spend about 10 hours on the class each week, logging on several times a week.

Quizzes: There will be several "open-book", not-timed quizzes, one for each module except for the last module. Each week, you will have a quiz on the Module we are covering--except for the week when you will be visiting a museum. The quizzes are not timed but they have a deadline to submit. They are due by midnight on Sundays, but I will accept them until Mondays at midnight. Please note that there are no penalties on finishing the quizzes on Mondays. This will give you plenty of time to carefully take the quizzes while studying the Modules. In rare cases, I may change the deadlines. But, that is very unlikely!

There will be true/false, matching and multiple-choice questions, all drawing on factual information in assigned websites. You can treat the quizzes like guided reading, if you like, read with the quiz open answer the questions as you encounter the facts on the assigned websites. (Use two browsers if you do this--Firefox for ETUDES, and Internet Explorer or Safari for the websites.)

Discussions: **The discussions are the heart of the course**, the place you practice critical thinking most directly. You will post at least **three times for each module**, and read

what others have posted. I will not post very often--generally only if issues of fact arise. There will be three topics to respond to in each module, except for the last module. I'll almost always be asking you to point out something you can see in an image.

Museum short report: I will assign two objects/topics related and/or from a local museum here in Los Angeles. You will then need to choose one topic/object only and write a report. **More details will be announced by the 4th. week of class.** If you have never written a museum report, no need to panic. You are here to learn and I am here to help you. Please keep in mind, that in order to succeed in writing your report you need to physically visit the assigned museum on your own. I encourage you to go with a classmate or a friend from this class. **This short report is due on the Final Day.** However, you will need to take the Museum report test and answer the questions under ATS in order to be able to submit your report. I strongly encourage you plan to visit the museum as soon as I announce the objects/topics.

Extra-credit: Weblibliography: Contribute an annotated entry to our list of websites useful for Art 109.

Please carefully review the ETUDES system requirements: See below. Make sure you have configured your computer correctly *before* the course starts.

<http://www.lamission.edu/online/>

Use the column on the left side of the screen to move around in the class. We are now at HOME. Please begin by clicking on "Modules" from the left hand menu.

If you need technical assistance, please contact the Online Student Helpdesk.

Basic Areas to Explore in Your Course in Etudes:

COURSE MAP - Everything on one page. See what you've done, and what you need to do. Move around by clicking the links.

MODULES - Start here each week for an overview and instructions

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Reminders and important new information is here--you'll always see the most recent announcements when you log on to the class.

SYLLABUS takes you a copy of the syllabus.

ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS and SURVEYS is where you take quizzes and surveys, and hand in assignments. It displays a list of your assignments and due dates.

DISCUSSION and PRIVATE MESSAGES has two functions:

Discussions is where you post your class discussions or ask questions for everyone to read.

Private Messages is like email-- you can contact your fellow students or me in a private manner.

Explore!

As long as you don't click "submit" anywhere, you are just looking.

A complete on-line version of this syllabus is available on Etudes for you to study and accept once you are enrolled in class.

Welcome!

Please Respect and Enjoy Our Class Time and Space!