

# Humanities 1: Art and Music

In Humanities 1 we explore the craft of the artist. We will look at paintings, listen to music, and read works of aesthetics. Some of our readings explore broad issues concerning the philosophy of art or aesthetics. Others deal with the technical aspects of artistic creation and analysis. Our goal will be the development of our powers of analysis and our communication skills on topics of art, music, and aesthetics.

## Table of Contents

The contents of this syllabus are as follows:

- Texts
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## Texts

The following texts on art are required:

Arnheim, *Art and Visual Perception*  
Taylor, *Learning to Look*  
Wood and Lee, *Master Paintings in the Art Institute of Chicago*

One or more of the following music books must be used:

Cooper, *Learning to Listen*  
Copland, *What to Listen for in Music*  
Zuckermandl, *Sense of Music*

The following works are also required:

Plato, "Ion"  
Tolstoy, *What Is Art?*

Any of the following works may also be used:

Balzac, "The Unknown Masterpiece"  
Dinesen, "The Immortal Story"

Hoffmann, "Councillor Krespel"  
Hume, "On the Standard of Taste"  
Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"  
Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn"  
Mann, *Death in Venice*  
Mann, "Tonio Kroger"  
Pythagoras, fragments  
Solzhenitsyn, "Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech"  
Weil, "Love of the Order of the World"

### ***Course Readings***

A list of the books and articles used in this course follows in the order in which they are read. Additional assignments will be announced in class.

Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"  
Plato, "Ion"  
Taylor, *Learning to Look*  
Tolstoy, *What Is Art?*  
Wood and Lee, *Master Paintings in the Art Institute of Chicago*  
Balzac, "The Unknown Masterpiece"  
Arnheim, *Art and Visual Perception*  
Hoffmann, "Councillor Krespel"  
Cooper, *The Basic Guide to How to Read Music*  
Cooper, *Learning to Listen*

## **Course Requirements**

### ***Discussion (50 percent)***

A good discussion depends upon careful preparation, a willingness to speak and to listen, open-mindedness, and mutual respect on the part of all members of the class. Bring questions about the materials to class, come ready to listen to others, come ready to change your mind, and to share your ideas with one another in a respectful, attentive, and caring way.

### ***Presentations (30 percent)***

Each student will make two presentations to the class. The first of these, an analysis of a painting, will take place mid-semester; the second, an analysis of a piece of music, will take place at the end of the semester. The painting which you select for your art presentation must be one currently on display at the Art Institute of Chicago, and you must have a color reproduction (slide, illustration, postcards) for the class to view during your presentation. The musical piece, also of your own selection, must be no more than five minutes in length. You must have a recording (cassette or CD) and a score for the class during the presentation. Both presentations must be completed in order to pass the course.

### **Written Assignments (20 percent)**

1. There will be two (3–4 pages) written assignments, one based on the visit to the Art Institute, a second based on the music section of the course. (10 percent)
2. You have two options for the remaining written requirement: (1) keep a journal for the course, or (2) write papers to accompany your oral presentations. You will need to decide your preference by the second week. See the syllabus for dates when assignments are due. (10 percent)

## **Syllabus**

Week 1	Class 1	Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"
	Class 2	Plato, "Ion"
	Class 3	Taylor, <i>Learning to Look</i> , pp. 51–63 (slides)
Week 2	Class 1	Tolstoy, <i>What is Art?</i> Chapters 1, 5–9, 15–20 Bring <i>Master Paintings</i> . . . to class.
	Class 2	Balzac, "The Unknown Masterpiece"
	Class 3	Taylor, <i>Learning to Look</i> , Chapters 2, 5, and 6 (slides) Study paintings in <i>Master Paintings</i> . . .
Week 3	Class 1	Arnheim, <i>Art and Visual Perception</i> , pp. 1–63 (slides)
	Class 2	Arnheim, <i>Art and Visual Perception</i> , pp. 218–302 (slides)
	Class 3	Arnheim, <i>Art and Visual Perception</i> , pp. 303–323: Sample presentation. Journals will be collected on Saturday and returned on Sunday
Between weeks 3 and 4 the class will visit the Art Institute— time to be announced.		
Week 4	Class 1	Presentations
	Class 2	Presentations
	Class 3	E.T.A. Hoffmann, "Councillor Krespel" Journals and papers will be collected this weekend
Week 5	Class 1	Cooper, <i>The Basic Guide to How to Read Music</i> , Chapters 1 and 3 (listening session)
	Class 2	Cooper, <i>Learning to Listen</i> , Chapter 1 (listening session)
	Class 3	Cooper, <i>The Basic Guide to How to Read Music</i> , Chapter 2 (listening session)
Week 6	Class 1	Cooper, <i>Learning to Listen</i> , Chapters 2 and 3 (listening session)
	Class 2	Cooper, <i>Learning to Listen</i> , Chapters 4 and 5 (listening session)

	Class 3	Cooper, <i>Learning to Listen</i> , Chapter 6 (listening session) Sample presentation
Week 7	Class 1	Presentations
	Class 2	Presentations
	Class 3	Presentations Journals and papers will be collected