**AP®Art History: Central Academy, DMPS**

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**Welcome** to an enriching opportunity! I hope you are really excited - I am!  I am passionate about all Art - but particularly this course, in its sixth year! The class was moved from RHS to Central Academy so that more students can take advantage of this unique opportunity & course. It’s a big deal.  No other high school in Des Moines, let alone the state of Iowa, offers this course!  Only 1700 schools in the USA offer it and it is a course that will set you apart on College applications.  This is a rigorous College Level course that will be the one that hones your ability to be organized, to think, speak, and write, critically and to analyze contextually. It’s not so much about memorization.  Don't worry - you WILL be able to do this and I will help you!!!  In the end, you will be so proud of your knowledge and understanding base! That said, you will have to trust and be patient. .  You will be "lent" a (a very expensive & heavy) college text - that you will take home & KEEP at home.  All reading will be pre-assigned and expected to be “digested "for in-class discussion & application.  There are 2 supplemental books that you need to buy **– Barron’s AP Art History Test Preparation Guide John Nici– available at Barnes & Noble or Amazon, and The Annotated Mona Lisa by Carol Strickland.** There are a few other organizational items that you will need to purchase and they are listed on our Weebly class web site:

<http://smarthistory12johnson.weebly.com>

The course syllabus will follow in August. The course will be divided into 10 Content areas and require thorough knowledge of 250 AP identified art works. \* See attached list. (**Or if getting this from web site, go to Khan Academy, Smarthistory to find the list of the required 250 images-** [**https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/ap-art-history/introduction-ap-arthistory/a/required-works-of-art-for-ap-art-history**](https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/ap-art-history/introduction-ap-arthistory/a/required-works-of-art-for-ap-art-history)**)** Go ahead and start looking these images up on line!

**Course Description:**

This course is designed as a high-level, challenging course with similar rigor to that found in the collegiate classroom. We will operate under college-level assumptions, the first of which is that you are interested enough in this subject to take the course and, therefore, are willing to do the work entailed in learning the material. Art History is an introductory survey course dealing with the history of art and its evolution from ancient to modern societies. AP Art History covers approximately 30,000 years of art creation, from the Prehistoric and Neolithic periods to 20th Century, Postmodern, and current art trends. Though a brief survey of Asian, African, Islamic, and other Eastern Art is studied, the bulk of this year-long class covers mainly Europe and the rest of the Western World. The course studies historical transition of art periods, as well as how culture, religion, government and history reflect the personal and sociological art trends throughout the existence of humans.

**Summer Reading:**

* **“Skim”** through the **Barrons** – cover to cover. A new version will be printed in August, wait for it but pre-order! **It is now available through Amazon** ( 8-8-2015)
* **Read The Annotated Mona Lisa –**cover to cover

**\*\*\*Additional readings/opportunities:** Read: The Secret Lives of Great Artists by Elizabeth Lunday and Mario Zucca **ISBN-10:** 9781594742576, Available on Amazon for 12.76 or 9.99 for kindle

<http://www.amazon.com/Secret-Lives-Great-Artists-Sculptors/dp/159474257X>

**Choose ten artists in this book that you connect with**. For each artist: Write a one paragraph description of the artist’s work and style. **Write a second paragraph** for each selected artist, explaining something interesting about the artist you learned when reading the book. This is due our first class meeting day following Labor Day (A day).

**Suggested Movies** about Art/Artists: *note some of these movies may be rated R.*

* Pollock: (Ed Harris stars as Jackson Pollock in this rightfully lauded biopic of the legendary abstract expressionist painter.)
* The Agony and The Ecstasy: (Charlton Heston and Rex Harrison star as Michelangelo and Pope Julius II, respectively, in this big-screen treatment of the painting of the Sistine Chapel.)
* [**Frida**](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120679/)**:** (This 2002 biopic earned Salma Hayek an Oscar nomination for her turn as Frida Kahlo, the Mexican surrealist painter from the first half of the 20th century.)
* [**Modigliani**](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0367188/)**:** (Andy Garcia stars as Amedeo Modigliani in this slightly reworked biography of the painter's life. Maybe not the ideal film to watch if you're studying for a test on the man, but a good story nonetheless.)
* [**Girl With a Pearl Earring**](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0335119/)**:** (Adapted from the novel of the same name, this film stars Scarlett Johansson as the titular character immortalized in Johannes Vermeer's *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. The story is fictional, but it's still a good film for fans of classic art and period pieces.)
* [**Lust for Life**](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0049456/): (Kirk Douglas stars as the famous Dutch painter. The film is also notable for a supporting role from Anthony Quinn as Paul Gaugin, a role that won him an Oscar.)
* **Artemisia:** (This 1997 French feature film is a wonderful historical fiction/biography of Artemisia Gentileschi, an Italian Baroque painter from the early 1600s. A great look at one of the early female pioneers in the field.)
* The Di Vinci Code: (Fictional murder mystery, based on the book by Dan Brown. Features many paintings by Di Vinci)
* Angels and Demons: (Fictional mystery, based on the book by Dan Brow. Shot in Rome and features many works by Bernini.)
* Pillars of the Earth: (Mini-Series based on the book by Ken Follet. Shows in detail how a cathedral is built)
* Rome: (HBO Series, has 2 Seasons, shows the history between Rome and Egypt. Focuses on the Lives of Julius Caesar and Caesar Augustus.)
* Midnight in Paris: main character travels back in time and meets several artists.
* Woman in Gold – work of Gustav Klimt, recovery and Restitution Act in Austria
* Monument Men – recovery of stolen Masterpieces under Hitler’s regime