

WEEK 1 –
INTRODUCTION
AND WELCOME TO
THE COURSE

ARTH1104 Art of the United States

Fall 2024

Ben Shahn, *The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti*. 1931–1932



ART OF THE UNITED STATES

Course description: A study of American artistic heritage, the artistic personalities and national characteristics that have shaped this legacy, from Native American, European, and colonial origins to the present, including Asian, African and Latin American influences.

Themes for our class: Race and Representation, Politics and Power, Native American Expression, Land and Environment, Modernism and Industry

HOW DO WE DEFINE ART?



How do we define art in our own lives?



What does the word art mean to us?

HOW DO WE SEE THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA?

What are some words or descriptions that come to mind?

Race and Representation



Kara Walker, *A Warm Summer Evening in 1863*, 2008, wool tapestry and felt,

Politics and Power



Native American Expression



KWAKWAKA'WAKW ARTIST, *EAGLE MASK CLOSED*, LATE 19TH C., FROM ALERT BAY, VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, CEDAR WOOD, FEATHERS, SINEW, CORD, BIRD SKIN, HIDE, PLANT FIBERS, COTTON, IRON, PIGMENTS, 37 X 57 X 49 CM

Land and Environment



Thomas Moran, *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*, 1872, oil on canvas mounted on aluminum

Modernism and Industry



Charles Demuth, left *After Sir Christopher Wren*, 1920 and *My Egypt*, 1927. oil on fiberboard, 90.8 × 76.2 cm

Formal (or Visual) Analysis

- + • One of the foundations of writing in art history is understanding how to formally or visually analyze an artwork.
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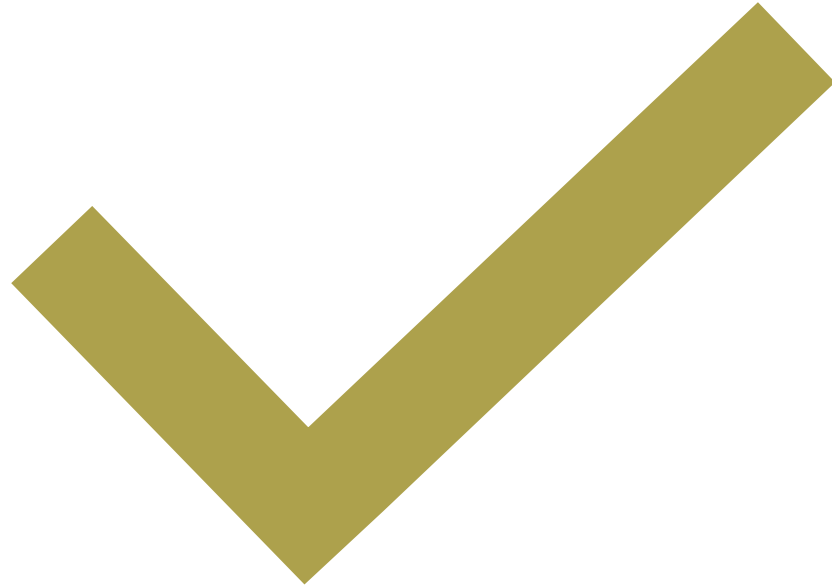
Your unique voice and perspective in combination with close, careful, viewing is your guide to a successful formal analysis.



Formal Analysis

TIPS Key terms to consider when writing a formal analysis paper or speaking about artworks in class discussions (*in no specific order*):

- Line
- Shape/Size
- Color - bright, intense, naturalistic, dulled
- Texture & brushstroke – smooth, polished, rough, grainy
- Scale
- Emotive Tone
- Overall Composition
- Subject



SYLLABUS REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION POSTS