University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Analysis of Artwork, PG_00203533		
Field of study	History of Art		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	4.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Modern Art -> Institute of Art History -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Magdalena Staręga	
	Teachers	dr Magdalena Staręga	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	68.0	100

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to master and improve the skills of describing, analyzing, and interpreting works of art, which involves translating visual observations into verbal language. Familiarization with the scheme of description and analysis of works of art and its application in relation to works from various fields and historical periods. Familiarization with the basic terminology necessary for the description of works of art, as well as pointing out the multifaceted nature of the perception and reception of selected works based on various approaches and methodological perspectives.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[HISTSZL3_K04] Is willing to acknowledge and respect different points of view determined by different national and cultural backgrounds; show understanding of the world of values and attitudes of people in different periods and historical contexts	Is willing to take into account the diversity of cultural and historical perspectives in the analysis and interpretation of works of art, and to show respect for different systems of values and attitudes.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work
[HISTSZL3_U08] Has the ability to argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions	Is able to formulate and substantiate their own conclusions concerning a work of art, using relevant arguments and referring to the basic findings of other authors.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work
[HISTSZL3_U03] Is able to critically analyse and evaluate the artistic value of works of art	Is able to critically analyse a work of art, taking into account its form, artistic means, technique, and function, and using basic art-historical terminology.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work
[HISTSZL3_U06] Defines, explains and applies correctly orally and in writing the basic terms and concepts specific to the art sciences and related sciences in working on selected topics and eras	Defines, explains, and correctly uses in speech and writing basic terms and concepts specific to art history and related sciences in the work of describing, analyzing, and interpreting selected works of art created at different times and in different artistic environments.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[HISTSZL3_U02] Knows how to interpret works of art by means of typical methods of interpretation, taking into account the formal shaping of statements and their place in the historical-cultural process	Is able to interpret works of art using typical methods, constructing a coherent oral or written statement.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[HISTSZL3_W06] Knows to an advanced degree the research methods and tools of the art historian's workshop, in particular the methods of analysis and interpretation of art products of different epochs	Has an advanced knowledge of research methods and tools used by art historians, in particular methods of description, analysis, and interpretation of works of art from different periods.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

Conditions affecting the perception of a work of art

The original and reproduction of a work of art in research practice

Changes in the form and content of a work of art since its creation

Scheme for describing and analyzing a work of art

Description of a work of art and the record card of a museum and non-museum object

Basic methodological approaches

Issues of composition, perspective, color, light, and expression in works of art

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Terminology Test	51.0%	50.0%
Coursework	51.0%	50.0%
Attendance	80.0%	0.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Sylvan Barnet, *A Short Guide To Writing about Art*, wydanie z 2014 lub wcześniejsze
John Berger, *Sposoby widzenia*, Warszawa 2008
Ernst Gombrich, *Sztuka i złudzenie. O psychologii przedstawiania obrazowego*, Warszawa 1981
Rudolf Arnheim, *Sztuka i percepcja wzrokowa, Psychologia twórczego oka*, Warszawa 1978
Daniel Arasse, *Nie widać nic. Opowiadanie obrazów*, Kraków 2012
Liz Rideal, *Jak czytać obrazy. Treść, forma, technika*, Warszawa 2024
Anne D'Alleva, *Jak studiować historię sztuki*, Kraków 2008
Anne D'Alleva, *Metody i teorie historii sztu*ki, Kraków 2008

	Supplementary literature	Erwin Panofsky, *Ikonografia i ikonologia*, [w:] Tenże, *Studia z historii sztuki*, red. Jan Bialostocki, Warszawa 1971 Maria Poprzęcka, *Galeria. Sztuka patrzenia*, Warszawa 2003 Grażyna Bastek, *Rozmowy obrazów*, tom I i II, Warszawa 2020 Grażyna Bastek, *Ilustrownik. Przewodnik po sztuce malarskiej*, Warszawa 2024 Alexander Sturgis, *Zrozumieć malarstwo. Najważniejsze tematy w sztuce*, Poznań 2006 Patrick de Rynck, *Jak czytać malarstwo. Rozwiązywanie zagadek, rozumienie i smakowanie dzieł dawnych mistrzów*, Kraków 2005 Stefano Zuffi, *Jak czytać włoskie malarstwo renesansowe*, Kraków 2016 Dorota Folga-Januszewska, *Jak czytać malarstwo polskie. Od XI wieku do 1914 roku*, Kraków 2012 Jon Thompson, *Jak czytać malarstwo współczesne. Rozwiązywanie zagadek, rozumienie i smakowanie dzieł mistrzów od Courbeta do Warhola*, Kraków 2006
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Description, analysis and interpretation of a sculptural work Application of selected art history methods in practice Perspective in painting	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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