

## Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 6117 *Communicating the Gospel through Art*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES  
None
- III. TEXTBOOK

Brown, F. B. (2000). *Good taste, bad taste, and Christian taste: Aesthetics in Religious life*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.

Howes, G. (2007). *The art of the sacred: An introduction to the aesthetics of art and belief*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Schaeffer, F. A. (1973). *Art and the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to assist the graduate student in the production of art works which foster ways in which the student may assist in the spread of the Gospel Ministry and serve to enhance various Christian arenas of service and worship.
- V. RATIONALE

The goal of this course is to provide undergraduate students with opportunities to express their Christian faith through various media of artistic expression. Students will also be involved in verbally expressing the content of their work to the class (or to a live audience) as a way of encouraging others in their faith. It is an opportunity for undergraduate students to produce expressive works of art with spiritual content and to influence and minister to the world in positive ways.

The disciplines of art history, studio art, art criticism, and aesthetics will provide a framework for the course. As a part of the studio component, students will explore creative ways in which art can be used to communicate spiritual truths by exploring a variety of media. In summary, the goal of this class is to help students have an opportunity to express their faith through the arts and to help them see how the arts can be used to help others engage in spiritual reflection.
- VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
  - A. To identify major historical, doctrinal, and aesthetic factors influencing the use and omission of art in the church.
  - B. To formulate a biblically-based doctrinal and aesthetic position related to the use of art in church.

- C. To gain an understanding of different ways in which visual symbols and artistic creations can be used to express the Christian faith.
- D. To have a working knowledge of basic design principles in order to communicate spiritual principles more effectively.
- E. To produce several original works of art in a variety of media containing spiritual content.
- F. To thematically blend imagery from the Bible with contemporary subject matter in creative and meaningful ways.
- G. To incorporate key components of artistic creation in various forms of ministry, whether as exhibited works of art or as parts of worship and evangelistic activity.

VII. COURSE TOPICS

The topics will be distributed by the professor.

VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

- A. Lecture
- B. Demonstrations
- C. Studio activities
- D. Critiques: verbal and written
- E. Reading assignments from various art and religion sources

IX. GRADING SCALE

*See Department of Art Syllabus Addendum for Grading Scale and Evaluation.*

X. LIST OF MATERIALS

Materials list will be provided by the instructor.

XI. REFERENCES

Apostolos-Cappadona, D. (1992). *Art, creativity, and the sacred: An anthology in religion and art*. New York: Crossroad.

Apostolos-Cappadona, D. (1994). *Dictionary of Christian art*. New York: Continuum.

Baker, J. (1978). *English stained glass of the medieval period*. London: Thames and Hudson.

Dillenberger, J. (1969). *Secular art with a sacred theme*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Dillenberger, J. (1989). *The visual arts and Christianity in America: From the colonial period to the present*. New York: Crossroad.

- Dryness, W. A. (2001). *Visual faith: Art, theology, and worship in dialogue*. Grand Rapids, MI. Baker Academic.
- Finney, P. C. (1999). *Seeing beyond the word: Visual arts and the Calvinist tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Gardner, P. (1928). *The principles of Christian art*. London: J. Murray.
- Grabar, A. (1968). *Christian iconography: A study of its origins*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Hogarth, D. (1981). *Dynamic light and shade*. New York: Watson-Guptill.
- Kari, D. M. (1995). *A bibliography of sources in Christianity and the arts*. Lewiston, NY: E. Mellen Press.
- Kessler, H. L. (2000). *Spiritual seeing: Picturing God's invisibility in medieval art*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Martin, F. D. (1972). *Art and the religion experience: The "language" of the sacred*. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press.
- Maus, C. P. (1960). *The church and the fine arts: An anthology of pictures, poetry, music, and stories portraying the growth and development of the church through the centuries*. New York: Harper.
- McClinton, K. M. (1962). *Christian church art through the ages*. New York: Macmillan Publishers.
- Melton, C. A. (1997). *Caring beyond words: The power of Christian symbols to heal the soul*. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys Publishers.
- Nathan, W. L. (1961). *Art and the message of the church*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press.
- Osborne, M. P. (1998). *The life of Jesus in masterpieces of art*. New York: Viking Press.
- Post, W. E. (1962). *Saints, signs, and symbols*. New York: Morehouse-Barlow Company.
- Sill, G. G. (1975). *A handbook of symbols in Christian art*. New York: Collier Books.

- Speake, J. (1994). *The Dent dictionary of symbols in Christian art*. London: J. M. Dent.
- Stafford, T. A. (1942). *Christian symbolism in the evangelical churches: With definitions of church terms and usages*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press.
- Trent, K. E. (1960). *Types of Christ in the Old Testament: A conservative approach to Old Testament typology*. New York: Exposition.
- Verdon, T. & Henderson, J. (1990). *Christianity and the Renaissance: Image and religious imagination in the Quattrocento*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.
- West, E. N. (1989). *Outward signs: The language of Christian symbolism*. New York: Walker.