

Tree of Life School

*"Wisdom is a tree of life to those to those who embrace her."
Proverbs 3:18*



Art Appreciation Course Outline

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Introduction

This course seeks to lead you into a discovery of art, artists, and the necessary skills to appreciate this form of expression. Although art does take many forms, we will concern ourselves chiefly but not exclusively with the study of painting. You will do some research and gradually compile a personalized art history binder featuring a variety of art prints together with information that you have learned about artists and styles.

Our goal is to help you to view art and understand it based on composition, contrast, colour, etc. but also to recognise it as an expression of a time period and a worldview.

How to Work Through The Course

We have divided the material to be covered into seven units, and worked out a suggested schedule of 140 days. This will allow you to follow a four-day school week and still complete the course in a normal academic year. The fifth day of each week can be used to catch up on assignments, do extra reading, or simply take the day off from the course. If a five-day school week is more desirable, you may pursue this course and will be rewarded by early completion of the material. Care has been taken to provide specific instructions for each day's work. Therefore, **all work is to be completed in the order presented** in the daily schedule.

To help you put together your art appreciation document, you have been provided with a binder, art postcards and prints, construction paper, page protectors, and information sheets. Your text, *The Annotated Mona Lisa*, will be your main source of information, but of course you may consult other books from your own shelves or from the library.

We hope that you will enjoy mounting and analysing the art examples that have been provided, and reporting in written form what you are learning. Send us each assignment to be evaluated as it is completed. When you receive it back, add it to your binder. When you finish the final assignment, send the complete binder to us for evaluation.

Unit 1 begins by laying a foundation for appreciating art. You will do some reading and writing about Art and a Christian Worldview, and How to Look at a Painting.

In Units 2 through 6 you will study art history. Now you will be sorting out and becoming familiar with your set of prints. Here is **how to put your binder together**:

Select the postcards and prints that go with the time period about which you have just read. Use your own talent to create a sectional cover with the unit title (e.g. *Early Art Through the Middle Ages*), and place it inside a page protector. Behind this you will place a piece of the black construction paper. Turn the construction paper over and mount your first selected postcard or print. Once this is placed in the binder, you should have the piece of art facing you on the left. Take out one of the information sheets provided (page 45 of this study guide is a master copy for printing more) and, after having done your research, complete the sheet by filling in the required information. Slip this into the next page protector. You now should have a print on the left and

its corresponding information sheet on the right. Mount your next piece of art work onto the construction paper and slip it behind the previous information sheet. You are now set to start the next information sheet. Repeat this process until you have completed all the postcards and prints for that period of art.

Thus, as you proceed through the units, your art history binder will grow.

In Unit 7 you will pull everything together by reviewing all you have learned, and taking a short test. After that you may choose a favourite work of art to study and explain.

When you are all done, we would like to look at your completed binder and see your mounted pictures and interpretations. Send it to us in the mail. Don't worry: we will send it back!

****Please see the Tree of Life Student Handbook for instructions on preparing and formatting essay assignments and on anything related to evaluation of assignments.**

Calculating Your Final Grade

Your final mark in the course will be based on the following percentages:

Unit 1:	Art and the Christian Worldview	10
	How to Look at a Painting	5
Unit 2:	Early Art Through the Middle Ages	5
Unit 3:	Renaissance and Baroque	5
Unit 4:	Nineteenth Century	10
Unit 5:	Modern and Contemporary	10
Unit 6:	The Canadians	5
Unit 7:	Test	10
	Favourite work of art	5
Completed binder sent to us to peruse		35
		—————
		100%

Daily Schedule

Unit 1: Foundations

DAY 1 -- First be sure to read the introductory pages of this study guide, as they will tell you what to expect in this art appreciation course. Then skim through your textbook *The Annotated Mona Lisa* and any other books you may have available about art history or artists. This is to give you a ‘feel’ for the topic.

DAYS 2 and 3 - Design and make a page for the cover of your Art Appreciation binder. This may be your own work of art in pen & pencil or watercolour, or you may use calligraphy, or photography, or you may arrange images and text from the internet in a creative way. Be sure to feature the title of your binder and your name. Slip this page into the plastic sleeve on the cover of your binder.

Art and the Christian Worldview

DAYS 4 and 5 – Read the essay by Jerry Solomon & Jimmy Williams found on page 16 of this study guide. Use a pencil to underline important parts and statements that strike you as especially interesting, and take notes in the margin.

DAY 6 and 7 – Read the essay by Leland Ryken found on page 20 of this study guide. Once again, use a pencil to take notes. If you practise identifying the key ideas in each section, you will find the whole essay to be understandable and helpful.

DAYS 8 to 11 -- Now distill what you have learned into your own essay (750 to 1000 words) about a Christian perspective on art and its place in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ. This essay should be typed and sent to us to for evaluation. E-mail it to evaluation@treeoflifeathome.com When you receive it back, place a printed copy at the beginning of your binder. Remember: All written assignments should be submitted as you complete them, rather than wait until the end of the course to be submitted with your final art binder.

How to Look at a Painting

DAY 12 - Read the “Introduction: How to Look at a Painting” found at the beginning of your text.

DAY 13 - Read “How to Read a Painting” found on page 41 of this study guide.

DAYS 14 and 15 - Write a brief report (at least one page) entitled “How to Look at a Painting”. This report should be typed and sent to us to be graded. When you receive it back, place a printed copy in your binder after your initial essay.

