Art History is a survey of the history of Western visual arts, with a primary focus on painting. Students begin with an introduction to the basic principles of painting and learn how to critique and compare works of art. Students then explore prehistoric and early Greek and Roman art before they move on to the Middle Ages. Emphasis is placed on the Renaissance and the principles and masters that emerged in Italy and northern Europe. Students continue their art tour with the United States during the 20th century, a time of great innovation as abstract art took center stage. While Western art is the course's primary focus, students will finish the course by studying artistic traditions from Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas.

Coverage of each artistic movement highlights historical context and introduces students to key artists that represent a variety of geographic locations. Throughout the course, students apply what they have learned about art critique to analyze and evaluate both individual artists and individual works of art.

This course is built to state standards and informed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations standards. It encompasses a variety of skills to enable students to critique, compare, and perhaps influence their own works of art.

No required or optional materials.

Length: One Semester

Unit 1: Introduction to Painting

- Broad Strokes: Principles of Painting
- Influences Real and Imaginary
- How to Critique
- Introduction to Painting Wrap-Up

Unit 2: Prehistoric to Late Middle Ages

- A Long, Long Time Ago
- Medieval Times
- Painting in the 15th Century
- Prehistoric to Late Middle Ages Wrap-Up

Unit 3: The Renaissance

- Early and High Renaissance
- High Renaissance Masters
- Northern Renaissance
- The Renaissance Wrap-Up

Unit 4: Baroque and Rococo

- The Early Baroque Period

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- The Late Baroque Period
- Art in 18th-Century Europe
- Baroque and Rococo Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Modernity in the 19th and 20th Centuries

- 19th-Century Art in Five Movements
- A New Way of Seeing: 20th-Century Art
- The Business of Art
- Modernity in the 19th and 20th Centuries Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Beyond Western Influence

- Art Cultures of Asia
- Art Cultures of the Americas
- Art Cultures of Africa and Oceania
- Final Project: Create a Work of Art
- Beyond Western Influence Wrap-Up

Unit 7: Review and Exam

- Review and Exam

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