Final Paper Assignment
Due Date: Thursday · May 14, 2020 (Papers will not be accepted after this date)

You are being offered two (2) options for your final paper: a contextual analysis (evaluating a work of art based on the historical time period and its style), or a formal analysis (evaluating a work of art based on its design principles). Choose one (1) of these options to evaluate a total of two (2) works of art, not discussed in class and not in your textbook, each from a different category below.

You are to virtually visit any museum in the world from which to select your two works of art. Listed here are the stylistic periods you will be choosing from as they have been introduced during the course of the semester.

- ONE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN WORK dating from 7500 BCE to 500 BCE
- ONE EGYPTIAN WORK dating from 2500 BCE to 1000 BCE
- ONE AEGEAN WORK dating from 3200 BCE to 1050 BCE
- ONE GREEK WORK dating from 2500 BCE to 350 BCE
- ONE ETRUSCAN WORK dating from 900 BCE to 200 BCE
- ONE ROMAN WORK dating from 50 BCE to 300 CE
- ONE EARLY CHRISTIAN WORK 300 to 600 CE
- ONE BYZANTINE WORK dating from 330 to 1450 CE
- ONE ISLAMIC WORK dating from 700 to 1300 CE of Spain, North Africa, or Western Mediterranean
- ONE MEDIEVAL WORK dating from 1000 to 1300 CE

Regardless of which option you choose, your paper must include the following:

- The images and a label for each with:
  - Figure #
  - Name of Artist
  - Title of Work
  - Date
  - Stylistic Period (i.e. Assyrian, Ancient Near East; Old Kingdom, Egypt; Archaic, Greek; etc...)
  - Material
  - Size
  - Accession Number or Museum Number

- Incorporate relevant vocabulary introduced in class through the slide presentations, and in your Janson's—this is an absolute requirement that weighs significantly on your grade.

- The body of your paper, not including cover page, images and the works cited page, will be a minimum of 6-8 pages, typewritten, double spaced, using 12 pt Garamond or Times. (see examples for formatting your final paper on the class website)

- Include a cover page, images, footnotes, and a Works Cited page in addition to the 6-8 page paper, saved as a PDF, and submitted through email by May 14, 2020.
OPTION 1–CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

For this paper you are to discuss the subject matter, and the stylistic period in which the work was created. Communicating the circumstances that aided in the formation of these works of art is your aim. If you have the name of an artist, introduce the artist of your work of art and include information about them and their career as it relates to their work.

Choose a total of TWO works of art, either painting or sculpture (not viewed in class or discussed in your text), ONE from a different category listed above.

The body of your paper is to include research and information regarding the following:

- **What is the subject/narrative that is being presented in the work of art you have chosen?** Explain it thoroughly and define the iconography. Remember, you are writing for someone who knows nothing about the subject. *From Abacus to Zeus: A Handbook of Art History* is a very useful resource to help define subject matter. Is the subject representational, abstract, or non-representational?

- **What does the date tell you?** Consider what is taking place during this period historically. What belief systems do the people of this culture maintain? Politically, who is in charge at this time? How do these factors relate to your chosen works of art?

- **What artistic style does the work represent?** Explain why a work is considered, for example, Classical Greek or Republican Roman. **A case in point**, during the Classical Greek period, the artist POlykleitos developed an ideal canon of proportions for his sculpture. His use of *contrapposto* influenced works of art created during this time period by other individuals. The Classical Greek period is defined by other characteristics as well, such as Greek philosophy, the desire to represent the idealized human form, and a predilection for rationalism. What is *contrapposto*? Does your chosen Classical Greek work of art present this feature? What else defines the art of the Greek Classical period? In what ways does your chosen artwork depict these characteristics?
OPTION 2–FORMAL ANALYSIS
For this paper you are to evaluate each work of art based on its composition. The aim of your paper here is to describe how the artist is using the media associated with each artwork to present colors, shapes, forms, lines, etc., to create the final work and express its subject matter successfully.

Choose a total of TWO works of art, either painting or sculpture (not viewed in class or discussed in your text), ONE from a different category listed above. Along with the image of the original, you are to include a drawing of each work of art chosen and presented in your paper.

• Evaluate each work based on its compositional design. You are conducting a design analysis based on the **Principles of Compositional Design**—

  1) Unity and Variety        5) Directional Forces
  2) Pattern                  6) Contrast
  3) Balance                  7) Repetition and Rhythm
  4) Emphasis and Subordination 8) Scale and Proportion

The body of your paper is to include research and information regarding the following:

• **What do you know about the artist?** If you have the name of an artist, introduce the artist of your work of art and include information about them and their career as it relates to their work.

• **What is the subject/narrative that is being presented in the work of art you have chosen?** Explain it thoroughly and define the iconography. Give relevant information about the subject so that your reader understands what the artist is communicating. Remember, you are writing for someone who knows nothing about the subject. *From Abacus to Zeus: A Handbook of Art History* is a very useful resource to help define subject matter. Is the subject representational, abstract, or non-representational?

• **What methods did the artist use to create this work?** For example, if the work is a sculpture, did the artist carve it, mold it, or use an additive technique to create it? If the work is a painting, what kind of painting technique or colors are used? Is it representational, abstract, or non-representational? Reference the handout, *An Introduction to Visual Art Forms*, which is also on the class website to refresh your memory, and to guide you to the design elements you need to be focusing on.

• **Choose three (3) of the design principles above** to discuss in association with each artwork chosen. In what way is the artist depicting unity and variety, or emphasis and subordination, for example? Do the design elements—color or line support the design principles evident in the work? Where is your attention being drawn based on these design elements/principles?