

ARTH 1103 / OL 16 - Midterm Exam - Due by 11:59 PM Sunday October 17th

Directions: Answer both parts of each of the three questions. Please write legibly in proper essay form, using complete sentences and a logical flow of ideas. Each part requires three or four sentences, and all the answers may be found in the book and/or your notes. However, you may use any reliable source you want. Please write your answers in this document. Submit Assignment to Blackboard.

1. The Greek sculpture called The Spearbearer exhibits the body stance known as ***Contrapposto***.



- a. Describe in detail what the Contrapposto stance consists of, meaning exactly what body parts go where and what job do they do, and what facts about human anatomy it conveys?

The contrapposto stance is the pose that shows the shifting of body weight to one leg for the purpose of balance. In this figure, the right leg is holding the full weight of the sculpture and the left leg is relaxed while the hips and shoulders are resting, and this gives the torso a slight s-curve. One of the facts about human anatomy in the contrapposto stance is how the human body acts and reacts when a person puts more weight on a leg than in the other one. For example, when you have to do a line of two hours, you need to be in the contrapposto stance because if not, you will get tired of being straight.

- b.** In their search to show the human body ‘the way it really is in nature,’ what were the Classical Greeks trying to say about the relationship between man and everything that constituted his world?

The classical Greeks were trying to show people the human body is as beautiful as nature. That it should be left to grow and blossom just the way we do with nature. In a way, the environment also enables it to evolve. It allows it to ask questions and find answers to queries that have been troubling mankind. So, all the Classical Greeks were trying to do is explain the relationship between the two. They were trying to show people that they are co-dependent. One cannot live without the other and if we interfere, we will be messing with how things are supposed to be. So, we need to let them be, let them rely on each other and everything will evolve as they are supposed to be.

2. Describe the difference between *Post-and-Lintel* architecture, as used by the ancient Greeks and *Arcuated* architecture, as used by the ancient Romans.

The difference between Post-and-Lintel architecture and Arcuated architecture is that post-and-lintel is a system of construction in which two posts support a lintel and Arcuated architecture is the use of arches which means arch-shaped.

- a.** Give examples of buildings that utilize **each** of these systems.

These are some of the buildings that utilize **Post-and-Lintel** system:

- Parthenon, Athens, Greece.
- Temple of Hera I (Paestum), Italy.
- Old St. Peter's
- Egyptian hypostyle hall columns.

These are some of the buildings that utilize **Arcuated** system:

- Pont du Gard, Nîmes, France.
- Temple of Amon.
- Triumphal arch.

- b.** What are some of the advantages of the arcuated system (Arches)? How do arches work?

Some of the advantages of the arcuated system are:

- Multiple arches can work together to create a better stability.
- There is a higher level of resistance.
- It is possible to create an arch out of almost any material such as concrete or stones.

How do arches work?

An arch is an architectural form that controls the pressure from the weight of a building in a specific way. The arch directs pressure downwards and outwards, creating a strong passage underneath it that has the ability to support heavy structures. This is called compressive stress, because the pressure of the weight is compressed by the shape of the arch.

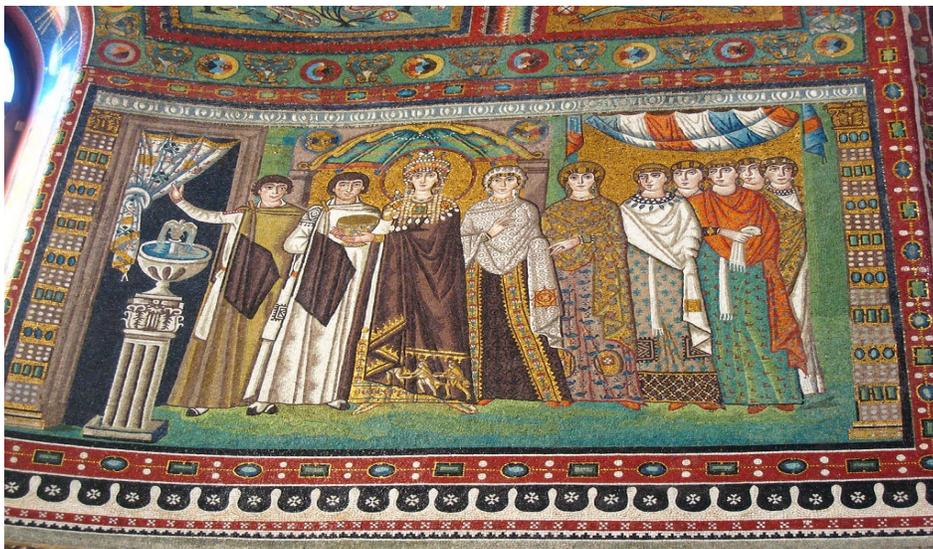
3. This Mosaic from the Church of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy, is an example of *Byzantine art*.

a. Name 3 characteristics of Byzantine art seen in this work

- In this art you can see that it is more away from naturalism because people in there are all the same height.
- It contains a religious message because you can see the bowl where they put the communion. Also, the representation of the three magi on the border of her robe suggests that she belongs in the elevated company of the three monarchs who approached the newborn Jesus bearing gifts.
- They look very flat, and they are all facing the viewers with their big eyes.

b. What was the purpose of this work in terms of who is depicted in it?

The purpose of this work was for political reasons. It was to announce to the people that Justinian and Theodora were part of this newly created byzantine Christian empire which showed their loyalty to the byzantine emperor.



4. The Early Christian catacomb painting The Good Shepherd, The Story of Jonah, and Orants features an example of *Typology*.



a. What does the word *Typology* mean?

The word typology means the pairing of Old Testament images with Christian images to clarify the ideas of Christianity.

b. What does its use in this work convey about the stories of Jesus in the Gospels and Christian theology?

Typology in Christian theology is the interpretation of some figures and events in the Old Testament as foreshadowing the events of the new testaments. For instance, the story of Jesus is parallel to the story of Jonah because Jesus was crucified and came out three days later and Jonah was inside of the sea monster for three days, and he also came out alive. So, Christians look back through the Old Testament and they believe that there is something that predicts for tales the life, the death, and resurrection of Jesus.

5. The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Reims, France is an example of High Gothic architecture.



- a. Name three French Gothic principles/characteristic seen with this building.

The three French Gothic principles seen in this building are:

- Ribbed vaults
- pointed arches
- and flying buttresses.

- b. What is the purpose of these architectural elements in terms of what the parishioners in the cathedral experience?

The purpose of these architectural elements is to support and embellish the cathedral for which is one of the most visited places in France. Due to its architectural style, the rich history, and antiquity, the cathedral is considered a symbol of worship in France. Gothic architecture represents a desire to get closer to God and these elements not only make people feel in that way, but also the way cathedral looks give them a closer relation to heaven and society. In addition to their interior design, which was enriched by the abundance of stained-glass windows and the colorful preparation and assistance of their Abbot Suger, Gothic cathedrals drew visitors because of their vastness. Cathedrals like Notre Dame, formerly linked with religious teaching for peasants and city dwellers, are now affiliated with some of the world's oldest educational institutions.

Part II: Compare / Contrast Essay.

Write an essay comparing and contrasting the two sculptures below as we discussed in class. Consider as many aspects as possible, i.e. **Subject** (What you see), **Subject Matter** (What it's about), **Meaning** (How it relates to a specific historical event), Period Characteristics (How is each work typical of the culture/period that it's from?), Historical Background, Original Location, Materials, Carving Technique, Size, and other formal/physical aspects.

You can write your essay into this document, but it should cover two typed pages, double-spaced.



The two sculptures given in class are different in a way. For instance, the Arch of Titus showing the spoils of Jerusalem built in 82 CE, was built by Domitian in memory of his brother Titus and father Vespasian, who had triumphed at war. He wanted to show him how special he was and how his victory would go down in history. He also wanted to show the public how the Jewish war, which occurred between 66 to 74 CE, gave them a few treasures to carry back home.

The sculpture was built in Rome, at the foot of the Palatine Hill on the Via Sacra in the Forum Romanum, that was visible to the public. It was square and showing Roman soldiers carrying the spoils of war, such as treasures of the destroyed temple and the famous menorah, through the city. The sculpture is also an indication of how people should celebrate their success and how they should give credit where it is due.

However, the Parthenon Metope XXVIII tells a different story. It was built in Greece, specifically Athens, on the eastern half of the south side of the temple. It shows two beings, a Centaur and a Lapith at war. The Centaur is winning; he is standing on top of his counterpart with his left arm extended and a feline's skin flying behind him. The Lapith, on the other hand, is lying on his chlamys, with his head turned and his right leg and arm bent up and lying over his right flank respectively.

Interestingly though, both the Lapiths and the Centaurs heads are missing. The Lapiths arm and right knee, the Centaurs left hand, right arm, right hind foreleg, and the front legs are also missing. In a way, the sculpture seems to be made of marble between the year 447BC and 438BC.

It was established to capture the classical Greek period and the scenes of the mythical battle between the Lapiths and the Centaurs at the marriage feast of Peirithoos. The sculpture is also horizontal and rectangular and has a height of 134.50 centimeters, width of 134.50 centimeters, and depth of 41.50 centimeters.

In a way, one can also see that the Centaurs are part-horse, part-human. They are like that because they have a civil and savage side to their nature. According to the history books, they had attempted to rape the women at the wedding they were invited to. They had done this after consuming a lot of wine, and the Lapiths were just trying to defend themselves. The reason being, they had found it insulting that the leader of the Centaurs was trying to run off with the bride. In this case, they fought their hats off until they won.

In any case, the sculptures were built for the public to preserve the history of how humans had developed over the years. They were also created to show people that they should always fight for what they believed in. In a way, they are both relief sculptures and monumental, and the fact that they were built to show the history of wars also makes them similar. Generally, their texture makes them unique, and the story behind them also makes learning history interesting. In this case, they should always be preserved and who knows, maybe they will tell people something they have not read yet.