



Unit 1

Introduction to the Course

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Hi! I want to welcome you to Introduction to Art. I'm Marta Slaughter and I am going to be your instructor.

I really enjoy introductory classes because I enjoy teaching students who have no experience with art already. Maybe you're coming to this class fresh and you don't have a real idea of what art--maybe you're just really excited and interested. I love teaching students who have an enthusiasm and want to learn about art. And I have a passion for art and I really want to share it and so I really enjoy teaching this class.

We're going to talk about fundamentals of art, the language of art. You're going to develop a vocabulary; a formalized language of how to talk about, identify, and describe artworks. You're going to learn to critically analyze artworks and you're going to also learn about different media and processes. And we are going to go beyond just painting and sculpture and you're going to explore other possibilities.

Throughout the course and sprinkled throughout we are going to learn about different artistic styles and periods and you're going to learn a lot about different artists throughout the history of art. Historical context, or context, now that's a term that's going to repeat, you're going to hear that again in the course. And what that means is taking into the account the time period, the society the culture. What was happening at the time that the painting was made; who made it? And if we think about art as a mirror of society; as a reflection of our cultures--hopefully you'll be able to appreciate why art takes on different forms. Why it looks different and different times and cultures.



We wanted to give you a taste of what the school of Art and Art History has to offer so we invited professors and other faculty members to introduce subsequent units, kind of offer their prospective and to get you excited about the course.

By the end of the course you're going to become more visually literate. And that means more able to understand images, not just art and that is kind of important. Outside of just the study of Art and Art History, is realizing that the world we live in is very full of images. It's very image laden, everywhere around you. Think about you're daily visual culture. I do want to say that I am excited to teach this class. I'm really excited to have you as a student and by the end of the class; I really hope that you come away with a stronger and deeper appreciation of art--an enjoyment of art. An enjoyment that goes beyond just this online classroom setting; something that you can take with you outside of the course.