

Survey II—First Critique Assignment

The first short critique is due at the beginning of class on May 28.

First Assignment: the content of the assignment and some suggested questions are listed below. This assignment should be formatted as a formal paper; a list of questions and answers will not be accepted.

- Choose an image from a local museum collection (i.e. the Art Institute, the Museum of Contemporary Art, etc.). Students must visit the museum of their choice, and should not base their analysis on images from a web page.
- Write a 2+ page formal critique discussing the object. Use the assigned essay in *The Methodologies of Art* to shape the content of your critique.
- Things you should consider when you are analyzing the object:
 1. The formal elements of the piece: line, shape, color, light and shadow, balance, order, proportion, pattern, rhythm.
 2. The overall composition of the work.
 3. The materials used and the role that texture plays in the final object.
 4. How are mass and volume created in the image? How is perspective used to create an illusionistic space?
 5. Consider the style of the piece. How does the artist work within a larger historical or artistic tradition?
 6. How does the artist's individual style appear in the object (in other words, how does the artist's personal approach to the medium OR the artist's physical presence announce itself in the object?
 7. When we discuss objects in class, we look at projected images on a screen. How does the physical presence of the object effect or change our perceptions?
- Include a works cited page. **WIKIPEDIA IS NOT A CITABLE SOURCE IN A COLLEGE RESEARCH PAPER.** Students are **STRONGLY** discouraged from citing dictionary or encyclopedias; reference materials are located in the library if students require additional resources.
- An image of the artifact described.
- Students should choose an object from the scope of this class; images from the early Renaissance through the contemporary period are acceptable.
- Students should avoid writing about the following in their essay:
 1. The artist's biography
 2. The narrative or story of the image (in other words, an iconographic critique)

Grading: students will be graded on the following criteria:

- Content of the essay: how interesting and thorough is the critique?
- Quality of the conclusions drawn based on research and observation.
- Formatting, spelling and grammar of the essay.
- Was the essay submitted on time and does it meet assignment requirements?