Course Description: Art History I is offered to fulfill both the needs of the art major for an introduction into the foundations of art and dynamics of art expression; and the needs of the non-major for a general course which exposes the student to understanding the purpose of art. It includes critical evaluations of selected works of art and a study of the principles of design. Three lecture hours per week, a total of three credits. The student studies the components of art production, the artistic spirit, and the historical time periods of major art styles from prehistoric to gothic.

This global survey course introduces the visual arts and explains the cultural and sociological roles they have played throughout history using examples of sculpture, painting, and architecture. The time period dates from 35 B.C.E. to 1200 C.E. Information in the course includes slide lectures, videos, writing, tests, group discussions, and field trips. This course satisfies the cross-cultural component. Core curriculum course, 3 credits (lecture, no prerequisites).

Since Art History I must be designed to meet two goals at Houston Community College, a panorama of educational experiences must be offered. General art concepts and terminology must be covered to clarify art production practices. Selected artists and art history must also be introduced by way of films, slides, lectures, and research assignments to gain even more insight into accessing the fullness of the beauty of art.

The following outline will be used to help the students to clarify the objectives of this class:

1. Introduction to Art Terminology: The student will write comparisons and contrasts of selected art works to demonstrate mastery of art concepts. Assignments are beneficial in that they help students understand the meaning of art language and it enables the students to discuss art objects with the concepts they have become acquainted with by doing this project. Each assignment is worth 100 points. These terms are discussed and illustrated in the text and via slides and lecture. The first assignment is to choose ten pieces of art from the text and describe their strengths and weaknesses. Students are encouraged to write ½ page or more for each of the ten artworks. Strive for clarity and use specific examples to explain your points.

2. Book Report: Choose an art style or artist and write a paper discussing selected art works. Details in lecture Book Report Research Paper: The grade for this assignment is worth 100 points. The student will read a book and present selected material to class.

3. Selected Art History: Beginning with Cave Art through Gothic movements, the student will be responsible to recognize, understand, and identify artwork and artists from a variety of eras. These topics will be covered via lectures, slides, handouts, films, and books. The students will be given tests covering this material; each test is worth 100 points. The student will be prepared for these tests through review sheets and lecture. Below are the basic areas of study for each test.

4. Terminology and methods to evaluate art:
   - Elements of Art
   - Principles of Design
   - Prehistoric, indigenous peoples and early civilizations
   - Clay Vessels: low fire terra cotta, high fire porcelain and glazes.
   - Textiles: Silk and Tapestry
   - Works on paper.
   - China, Egypt, and the Americas
5. **Products and Media:** Clay, Architecture, Sculpture and Painting
   - Color theory and textures
   - Frescoes
   - Clay Vessels with human figures
   - Mosaic Murals
   - Greek and Roman architecture, Greek idealized figures, Columns: Ionic, Doric and Corinthian. Roman Arches and Domes, Sarcophagus
   - Early Christian and Byzantine Art
   - Celtic Illuminated Manuscripts
   - Early Medieval and Central Church Plans
   - Romanesque Art including base relief and portal sculptures. Roman Equestrian Sculptures and Realistic Portrait Busts

6. From **Low Gothic Art** to **High Gothic** and the Early Renaissance
   - Italian Gothic
   - French Gothic
   - German Gothic
   - English Gothic Cathedrals
   - Stained Glass Windows
   - Flying Buttresses
   - Steeples
   - Relief and 3-d figurative sculptures
   - Cruciform Church Plan

7. **Final Exam:** 15 to 20 short answer essay questions, which compare and contrast pieces of art.

8. **Grade Scale:**
   - 90% correct work = A  
     Exceptionally fine work: superior in presentation, visual observation, comprehension and participation
   - 80% correct work = B  
     Above average work: superior in one or two areas
   - 70% correct work = C  
     Average work: good, unexceptional participation
   - 60% correct work = D  
     Below average work: noticeably weak with minimal participation
   - 0-59% = F  
     Clearly deficient in presentation, style, and content with a lack of participation

9. **Absences and Withdrawals:** Students with excessive absences should withdraw from the course.
   Withdrawal from the course is the student’s responsibility. Attendance and participation is noted each class session. Roll will be taken at the beginning of every class; if you are not present when your name is called you will be marked absent. After 3 unexcused absences you may be dropped from the class roll. (HCC policy states that students who miss more than 12.5% (4 hours) of class time may be dropped from the class) Please speak with me regarding any special circumstances that are affecting your attendance. Students are expected to attend class regularly and on time. Students are responsible for course content covered during their absences, and it is the student’s responsibility to consult the instructor for assignments.

10. **The Grade “I” (Incomplete) is conditional.** A student receiving an “I” must arrange with the instructor to complete the course work within six months of the end of the incomplete term. After the deadline, the “I” becomes an F if the assignments are not completed.

11. **Missed Exams:** Make-up exams will not be given without an excused absence discussed with the instructor before the exam date. If you are absent on exam day, you will receive an F for the exam.

12. **Cell Phones:** Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class.

13. **Scholastic Dishonesty:** Policies on scholastic dishonesty include but are not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion.
   a. Cheating on a test includes: Copying from another student’s test paper, using during a test materials not authorized by the person giving the test, collaborating with another student during a test without authority, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test.
b. Plagiarism means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written work offered for the credit.

c. Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.

d. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 on a particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the college system.

14. Accommodations Disabilities: This college will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations of qualified individuals who are students with disadvantages. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Disability Support Services Office in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

15. Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment by any faculty, staff, or student is a violation of both law and university policy and will not be tolerated at Alvin Community College.

17. Academic Advisement: Academic advisement concerning specific Fine Arts courses and degree plans for Communications (Speech and Journalism) are available during the academic semesters. Please speak to an adviser in your area of interest.

19. Three-peaters: “Students who repeat a course three or more times may soon face significant tuition/fee increase at ACC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please ask your instructor/counselor about opportunities for tutoring/other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades.” (Director of Learning Initiatives)

Class Schedule:

Week One       Syllabus, Read pgs. 1-20 (Prehistory)
Week Two       Read pgs 20-51 (Near East)
Week Three     Read pgs 53-87 (Egypt)
Week Four      Read pgs 113-179 (Greek Art)
Week Five      Greek Art (review and exam)
Week Six       Read Ch. 6 (Roman Art)
Week Seven     Early Christian Art Ch. 7, Islamic Art Ch. 8
Week Eight     Islamic Art and Ch. 8 (India)
Week Nine      Test review and Exam
Week Ten       Book Reports Due
Week Eleven    Read Ch. 12 (Art of the Americas)
Week Twelve    Ch. 13 (African Art)
Week Thirteen  Ch. 14 (Medieval Art) & Ch 15 (Romanesque)
Week Fourteen  Gothic Art
Week Fifteen   Review
Week Sixteen   Final Exam
Biography
Vivian Pollock

I earned my M.A. in Humanities with a major in studio art at University of Houston-Clear Lake. I was born and grew up in Houston, Texas. I have lived in Friendswood for over 30 years with family. As an artist, my sense of color and symbolism was developed from the love of nature: trees, flowers, and especially birds and water. I love seascapes and landscapes with mountains. My landscapes have been influenced by travels through the West Coast, especially, the Pacific Northwest, the Southwest, especially Colorado, and national parks like the Grand Teton, Yellowstone and Glacier. My travel to Europe made me appreciate the rich art history and wonderful museums in Western Europe.

My specialty as an artist is transparent watercolor technique on silk. I have had several solo shows. I have exhibited with faculty at Alvin Community College, San Jacinto Junior College and University of Houston-Downtown. I have been a past president of the Watercolor Arts Society-Houston and served on the board for five years. I have also exhibited with the National Society of Artists, the Galveston Art League, Brazosport Art League and Fayetteville Artists.

Selected exhibits include: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, Texas, permanent collection; Johnson Space Center, Friendswood Historical Society Museum, University of Houston-Clear Lake and Christ Church Cathedral-Houston.

Primarily a painter, I enjoy experimenting with color. My original designs appear on silk scarves in boutiques. I have worked with many nationally known painters in an effort to stay current with art trends and special effects.

I enjoy studying and teaching art for many reasons, mainly:

1. Art can be a lifelong passion that is not immoral, illegal or too expensive: “There are many things in life that will catch your eye, but only a few will catch your heart. I try to pursue those.” Quality art increases the joy, satisfaction and tranquility in my daily life. Collecting art can be a way of discovering your own identity.
2. Visual art can express issues and ideas symbolically and dramatically in ways that ordinary words express in a lack-luster manner. Art often quickly communicates what is too lengthy to say or difficult to put into words.
3. My life is enriched and recharged by viewing art and in the process of creating art works. Art reveals insights and is chock full of the essence of creativity.
4. Being aware of how other artists have responded to life aids me in my own life’s journey.
5. In this technological age, we still need not only to understand other people but also machines. With art, cultural identity crystallizes an understanding of tradition and change within us and with others.