

Course guide

210357 - TAAE - Theories of the Arts. Art Before Aesthetics

Last modified: 03/07/2025

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Architecture

Teaching unit: 756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.

Degree: DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE STUDIES (Syllabus 2014). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2025 **ECTS Credits:** 3.0 **Languages:** Spanish

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer:

Others: Segon quadrimestre:
CELIA MARÍN VEGA - 2SMI

PRIOR SKILLS

It is necessary to have a good level of Spanish to follow the lectures.

The reading materials are provided mainly in Spanish, but the student will probably be able to find them in English or French at least.

To follow this subject is necessary a have background knowledge of architecture and art history.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Historical Knowledge and Understanding

Understand the evolution of Western artistic production from prehistory to the 17th century, identifying the conceptual and practical transformations of each historical period.

Comprehend the fundamental differences between the premodern conception of artistic making and the modern notion of "fine arts" that emerged in the 18th century.

Contextualize artistic works within their original cultural, religious, and symbolic frameworks, moving away from purely contemporary aesthetic interpretations.

2. Critical Analysis and Interpretation

Analyze works of painting, sculpture, and architecture as manifestations of specific systems of thought, ritual practices, and social structures.

Interpret historical texts by philosophers and image producers to understand the theoretical reflections of each era on art and craftsmanship.

Relate artistic production to transformations in thought: from intuitive to rational man, from medieval mystical symbolism to the humanist return to classical tradition.

3. Research and Communication Skills

Develop original analytical work on a specific work, text, or period, applying art history research methodologies.

Actively participate in academic debates, grounding arguments through analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Communicate complex ideas clearly and in a structured manner, both orally and in writing, using discipline-specific vocabulary.

4. Direct Experience and Synthesis

Apply theoretical knowledge to direct analysis of works in museum contexts, developing critical observation skills.

Synthesize and systematically organize course content, creating a personal dossier that reflects the learning process.

Integrate experiences from visits and study trips with theoretical content covered in the classroom.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Self study	45,0	60.00
Hours large group	30,0	40.00

Total learning time: 75 h

CONTENTS

title english

Description:

content english

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 5h

Guided activities: 1h

title english

Description:

content english

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 4h

Guided activities: 2h

title english

Description:

content english

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 4h

Guided activities: 2h

title english

Description:

content english

Full-or-part-time: 1h

Theory classes: 1h

GRADING SYSTEM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Belting, Hans. Imagen y culto : una historia de la imagen anterior a la edad del arte. Madrid: Akal, 2009. ISBN 9788446013310.
- Hauser, Arnold. Historia social de la literatura y del arte. 18a ed. Barcelona: Labor, 1983. ISBN 8433500198.
- Tatarkiewicz, Wladyslaw; Dziemidok, Bohdan. Historia de seis ideas : arte, belleza, forma, creatividad, mimesis, experiencia estética. Madrid: Tecnos, cop. 1987. ISBN 8430915184.
- Valverde, José María; Argullol, Rafael. Breve historia y antología de la estética. Primera edición. Barcelona: Ariel, octubre de 2011. ISBN 9788434413672.
- Wood, Christopher S. A history of art history. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019. ISBN 9780691156521.

Complementary:

- Baxandall, Michael. Giotto and the orators : humanist observers of painting in Italy and the discovery of pictorial composition, 1350-1450. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971. ISBN 0198171783.
- Eco, Umberto; Lozano Miralles, Helena. Arte y belleza en la estética medieval. Barcelona: Lumen, 1997. ISBN 8426412440.
- Kris, Ernst; Kurz, Otto. La leyenda del artista. Madrid: Cátedra, 1982. ISBN 843760320X.
- Lee, Rensselaer W. Ut pictura poesis : la teoría humanística de la pintura. Madrid: Cátedra, cop. 1982. ISBN 8437603714.
- Plini Segon, Gai; Torrego, María Esperanza. Textos de historia del arte. Madrid: Visor, cop. 1987. ISBN 8477740070.