



Office of Learning Resources

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Do You See What I See? Studying for Art History Courses

Before class

- ★ Preview assigned images before reading the text.
- ★ Copy down basic information from your textbook (e.g., artist, period, etc.) so that you will not have to spend time recording this information during the lecture.
- ★ When reading, take the time to refer to the figures so that you are constantly integrating the images with the text.

During class

- ★ Take notes on what the professor says, including arguments he/she presents and his/her analysis of the images.
- ★ Make note of the images that are being shown and details and comparisons that are being discussed.
- ★ Make sketches of the pieces next to titles or in place of titles to help with recall after class.
- ★ Leave spaces in your notes for ideas you miss or don't understand. Follow up with a friend, TA or professor after class to fill in these gaps.

After class

- ★ Review your class notes and the images that accompanied the lecture within 24 hours after class. Consistent review fosters deeper learning and easier recall.
- ★ When your professor says "You can see here that..." look at the image and practice talking through the professor's analysis on your own.

Studying for exams

- ★ Recreate images to help you remember details. For example, make copies of the images and draw over them, sketch certain details, or make diagrams indicating where key features are placed in relation to one another
- ★ Lay your images out on the floor or a large table and try to arrange them according to time period, theme, genre, region, patron, etc.
- ★ Make flash cards with the image on one side and basic information on the other. Test yourself on both sides.
- ★ Use mnemonic devices to help you remember specific dates and details. For example, if a painting was done in 1514 make sure you can identify the century

- from the style of the piece, but find something in the picture itself to associate with the numbers 10 and 4, 1 and 4, or 14.
- ★ Organize a study group. Lay the images on the floor or a large table and take turns identifying and explaining them.
 - ★ Practice talking like an art historian. Select a key concept or term and talk about the images in regards to that idea.
 - ★ Use web images with caution. When viewing images online you may tend to only view one image at a time. Viewing multiple images at once and discussing their similarities and differences with others facilitates understanding and analysis
 - ★ Keep a list of questions you have or ideas you do not understand and discuss these with your professor or TA before the exam.