

### Arkansas State University State University, Arkansas

**INSTRUCTOR** Alyson A. Gill, Ph.D.

**COURSE NAME** Survey of Art History I

**CREDIT HOURS** 3

**COURSE FORMAT** Hybrid

**TEXT** *Art History, Vol. I* by Stokstad and Cothren

**CONTRIBUTION OF MYARTSLAB TO FINAL GRADE** 15%

**TYPES OF DATA REPORTED** Improvement in final grades; Improvement in pass rates and retention

**MYLAB USER SINCE** 2010

STUDENTS ENROLLING IN PROFESSOR ALYSON GILL'S SURVEY OF ART HISTORY (sophomores, juniors, and a few seniors) typically have little background in art history. She notes that it is important to engage students and give them many tools to grasp content. Professor Gill embraces technology, and her students use iPads in class, actively use Twitter and other social media, and take advantage of virtual access to instruction. The challenge Professor Gill identified was: How can we assess learning using those tools? MyArtsLab is the solution she chose.

#### TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH MYARTSLAB

Professor Gill explains her approach, "MyArtsLab is an essential element of the course, and I require it along with the text. I always demonstrate MyArtsLab on the first or second day of class, and students quickly learn to log in to MyArtsLab daily. In MyArtsLab,

"MyArtsLab promotes student engagement."

—Professor Alyson Gill

they confirm assignments on the Calendar, read the eText, view videos, take the chapter Pre-Tests, follow the personalized Study Plan, join in class discussion, and take the chapter Post-Tests to check mastery. Likewise, I review students' activities in MyArtsLab, and I contact students directly if they are struggling or falling behind. MyArtsLab also enables me to adapt class lectures to address student questions as they arise. Throughout the term, I analyze the data MyArtsLab records so I can assess students' understanding of the course content and level of engagement and adjust my approach to meet their needs."

She continues, "I might ask students to view A Closer Look or a video or listen to an audio review of a particular art work. I then ask a question about this material on the written exam, and this further integrates MyArtsLab into the course. Students who answer correctly generate MyArtsLab points toward their final grade. For me, the data provides yet another measure of students' engagement with and mastery of the course content."

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## RESULTS

“I have looked back at grades in my classes before I adopted MyArtsLab and compared those results,” states Professor Gill. “Overall, grades in my classes since I adopted MyArtsLab have increased by a letter grade—a very significant improvement. Also, we find that students who complete the MyArtsLab Pre- and Post-Tests prior to exams have a stronger grasp of the material, write longer, more fully developed essays, and perform better on exams. I have also compared results from my classes using MyArtsLab with sections that did not use MyArtsLab to give us a clearer view on whether MyArtsLab is effective. I look at student comments as well as exam grades and final course grades—and the MyArtsLab students excel in comparison to their peers who don’t use MyArtsLab. These results are a very strong argument for MyArtsLab.”

She notes, “At our university, we have a fairly high proportion of international or non-native speakers. These students, in particular, are performing very well on their exams when they use MyArtsLab.”

## STUDENTS ADVOCATE FOR MYARTSLAB

“Students volunteer that they like MyArtsLab,” reports Professor Gill. “In particular, they appreciate the videos and animation sequences that make the individual art works come to life. Some students report that they do extra MyArtsLab assignments for ‘practice.’ In fact, those students who are using MyArtsLab fully and even doing additional assignments are suggesting to their peers that they should use MyArtsLab—so students are in fact

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promoting MyArtsLab internally to each other. This is something I wasn’t expecting!”

She continues, “And, when asked if they would choose the course with MyArtsLab or without, students overwhelmingly responded that they would choose MyArtsLab. Students also advised that they felt my future students would benefit from MyArtsLab, and that I should continue to require it.”

## CONCLUSION

Professor Gill states, “MyArtsLab is an incredible asset for art history teachers. We are always seeking new and effective ways to engage students and also to assess their learning progress. MyArtsLab helps us reach these goals.”

“Based on our positive success with MyArtsLab, I intend to increase our use of MyArtsLab in survey courses and extend MyArtsLab use to general education courses (art appreciation) as well,” says Professor Gill. “In the future, I am hoping to formalize our assessment process by collecting and analyzing more student performance data from MyArtsLab. MyArtsLab has been a really great tool and experience for us. “

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