

Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Junior Docent Training Syllabus
September – December 2015

- Instructors:** Debbi Hegstrom, Senior Educator, Docent Program
Ann Isaacson, Senior Educator, Guide Programs
Kara ZumBahlen, Junior Docent Training Assistant
- Required Texts:** O’Riley, Michael Kampen. *Art Beyond the West*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2012 (third edition, paper).
- Stokstad, Marilyn. *Art History: Portable Edition*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc., 2013 (six-part fifth edition, paper).
- The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. *Docent Handbook*. Minneapolis, 2015.
(sections posted on volunteer website)
- Supplemental Readings:** The following texts are available for optional readings in Asian art. Several copies are available in the docent/guide study and the MIA Reference Library.
- Mason, Penelope. *History of Japanese Art*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2005 (second edition, paper).
- Sullivan, Michael. *The Arts of China*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California, 2009 (fifth edition, paper).
- Assignments:** **Textbook readings are listed on the date by which they should be read.** Gallery study sheets and copies of additional readings not listed on the syllabus will be posted or distributed in class throughout the year.
- Time:** 9:40 a.m. Socializing and coffee/treats
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Class session (with breaks and lunch)
- Location:** Friends Community Room, first floor, Target Wing

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UNIT 1 Foundations of Touring

September 9

Orientation to the Museum

What is the Role of a Museum Guide?

*Way-finding exercise explained – due October 7

*Museum Experience exercise explained – due September 16

ASSIGNMENT: Read articles on role of museum guides.

September 16

Museum Visitors/Visitor Experience

Learning Styles

ASSIGNMENT: Read articles on museum visitors and learning in museums.

Read Docent Handbook entry on “Learning Styles.”

Museum Experience exercise due

September 23

NO CLASS – Yom Kippur

September 30

Visual Thinking Strategies

VTS small group practice in the galleries (p.m.)

October 7

Learning Resources/Reference Library

Study and research tips

Building tour

*Website exercise explained – due Oct 14

ASSIGNMENT: Read Docent Handbook entry on “Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)” posted on ipevolunteers.org.

Way-finding exercise due

October 14

Visual Elements and Principles

ASSIGNMENT: Stokstad v.1, “Starter Kit” (pp. xiv-xvii) and Preble ch. 3 & 4, pp. 41-92.

Website exercise due

UNIT 2 **Prehistoric and Ancient Cultures**
40,000 – 300 BCE

October 21 **Prehistoric/Ancient Civilizations, part 1**
Paleolithic, Neolithic, Sumer, Assyria, Marlik, Luristan, Egypt

Putting Together a Tour

ASSIGNMENT: Stokstad v.1, pp. 1 to 79; Preble ch. 1, pp. 2-16; Read Docent Handbook entry on “Designing Your Tour” posted on ipevolunteers.org.

October 28 **Ancient Civilizations, part 2**
China: Neolithic period, Shang and Zhou dynasties; Japan: Jomon period
SE Asia: Ban Chiang (Thailand) and Dong-son (Vietnam); India: Indus Valley civilizations, Aryan invasion, and Vedic civilization

*Themes and transitions exercise explained (in gallery)

ASSIGNMENT: Stokstad v. 3 pp. 294-299 (Indus, Vedic), 330-336 (through Zhou), 360-362 (Jomon)
O’Riley pp. 60-64 (through Vedic), 106-115 (China), 150-153 (Japan).
Optional: Sullivan pp.1-43, 45-63 (skim); Mason pp.13-22

November 4 **Early Art of the Americas (pre-contact)**
Mesoamerica and Isthmus: Gulf Coast and Petén Lowlands, Pacific Coast Mexico, Central America/Isthmus Region, South America, North America

*Tour observation assignment explained – due February 3

ASSIGNMENT: Stokstad v. 3 pp. 382-407 and O’Riley pp. 270-282, 286-307.

November 11 **Art of the Aegean World and Greece**
Cyclades, Crete (Minoan), Mycenae, Greece

*Comparison assignment explained – due December 16

ASSIGNMENT: Stokstad v. 1 pp. 80-155

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UNIT 3 **Art in the Service of Religion and the Ruling Classes:
300 BCE - CE 1000**

November 18 **Art of the Roman Republic and Empire**

Ptolemaic, Etruscan, Ancient Roman

*Gallery talk/open-ended questions explained (for December 2 and 9)

ASSIGNMENT: Read Stokstad v. 1 pp. 156-213

November 25 **NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK**

December 2 **Art of the Roman Republic and Empire: Religions of the Book**

Early Jewish, Christian (Coptic, Byzantine), and Islamic

Gallery talks with open-ended questions

ASSIGNMENT: Read Stokstad v. 2 pp. 214-277 and O'Riley pp. 24-38.

December 9 Gallery talks with open-ended questions

REVIEW: Ancient Cultures

Work in small groups to prepare for review

December 16 **REVIEW: Ancient Cultures**

*Ancient Cultures tour, part 1, and Tour Planning Worksheet explained. Part 1 due January 20.

ASSIGNMENT: Be ready to present review material.

Comparison assignment due

December 23 **NO CLASS - WINTER HOLIDAYS**

December 30 **NO CLASS - WINTER HOLIDAYS**