

ST-Northwest Coast Indian Art

Archaeology 336

Section: E100

Term: 2004 Spring

Instructor: Dr Alan McMillan

Office: EDB 9630 e-mail: mcmillan@sfu.ca

Evening course at Burnaby campus

Discussion Topics: This course looks at the artistic achievements, in various media, of Northwest Coast native cultures. Specific issues discussed include the roles art played in the society, interpreting the images in the art and the evolution of the artistic tradition from earliest evidence to modern times. This is a Group IV Topical Course.

Course content:

1. Introduction: the outdated concept of "primitive art." Ethnographic background: linguistic groups, general economy, social organization, architecture and the role of monumental artworks, etc.
2. Prehistoric development of NWC art: overview of NWC prehistory; origins of the art tradition and problems in archaeological recognition; "rock art" of the NWC and adjacent interior.
3. The ethnographic art of the NWC: technology (woodworking, sculpture in other media, two dimensional design, weaving); function of the art in society; structural elements of the art; identifying crest figures; regional sub-styles and their differences.
4. Historic and contemporary developments: elaboration of the art in the early historic period; the period of decline; the modern revival: contemporary NWC artists and their works.

Grading: two short papers (5-6 pages typed, 25% each) = 50%

slide exam 20%

final exam 30%

Required Texts: Carlson, Roy L. (editor) 1983 Indian Art Traditions of the Northwest Coast. Archaeology Press, SFU. Available for \$26.75 at the Archaeology General Office: EDB 9635. Price includes GST. Cash only please.

Stewart, Hilary 1979 Look

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: none

Notes: Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This course may be applied to the Certificate in Liberal Arts (Set 5).

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.