Art History 1 – József Sisa

The course covers the history of European art (sculpture and painting) from the Ancient Times to the Middle Ages. As an introduction, a short preliminary introduction delineates the geographical and historical background of the region, which includes in the earliest time not just Europe itself but also sections of the Middle East and especially Egypt. In discussing in Greco-Roman art, which forms the backbone of the course, the focus is very much on sculpture, the representation of man as the centre of the universe, and the changing perception of dignity, status and human feelings. The big changes in the Middle Ages, due mostly to the tenets of the Catholic religion and the new beginning after the „dark ages”, involve new forms of representation.

The course is meant to be interactive, encouraging students to participate. At the last lecture the students are invited to give presentations on pre-arranged topics, which is at the same time a review in preparation for the exam. The exam consists of pictures of paintings and sculptures to be identified, plus a short essay question. As an aid, the slide-shows of the lectures will be available in advance to all the students. In all, the grade will reflect not only the result of the exam but also the students’ participation and presentations.