

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM

ESSAY (100 points). Choose one from the following topics and address the questions as fully and completely as you can. Your essays are graded on the quality of the thesis, strength of the argument, logic of the organization, and clarity of the writing. The completed essays should be between 3-4 typewritten, double-spaced full pages and are *due on Tuesday, May 26 at 5:00pm to my e-mailbox at abertiz@laverne.edu*.

* N.B. All requirements for a proper scholarly essay (i.e., spelling, punctuation, grammar, standard citation of sources by footnotes or endnotes, and bibliography or works cited page) apply.

- a. Discuss the rise of the art market in 17th-century Holland. What circumstances precipitated this new phenomenon? How does this phenomenon manifest itself in the types of paintings being produced in Holland during this time by artists like Rembrandt and Vermeer, for example, and the class of patrons or buyers of these artworks? Cite at least two (2) works as examples in your discussion.
- b. With the occurrence of World War I, then World War II not long after, humanity in the 20th century had never before witness such chaos and mass destruction on so grand a scale over such an extended period. The horrific death and devastation that these global conflicts unleashed affected people, including artists, emotionally and psychologically. Discuss artists' reaction to the spectacle and experience of war. How did these worldwide conflicts affect artistic production during these years? How did they change long-held notions and assumptions about art, in their subject matter and pictorial technique, for example. Cite at least two (2) works to elucidate your points.
- c. The period of the late 17th- and 18th-century, called the Age of Enlightenment, witnessed a revolution in human thought, a radically new synthesis of ideas concerning humanity, reason, nature, and God. Enlightenment thinkers, for example, believed that received knowledge and authority, whether from the ancients or the Church, should be subject to question by independent minds. It is during this period that Galileo, Descartes, Bacon, and Newton made their landmark discoveries in science and mathematics. In the visual arts, how was this new way of thinking manifested? Select two (2) paintings created in this period and discuss how Enlightenment beliefs assert themselves in these works.