

Introduction to the Humanities

The Golden Ratio

Dona Cady, Humanities

Joanna DelMonaco, Mathematics

Middlesex Community College

Course Description

- **HU – Introduction to the Humanities** 3 credits

A general introduction to the Humanities, music and theatre; the visual and plastic arts (architecture, sculpture, painting, photography, and film); literature and philosophy. Surveys some major works and requires some experiential learning – trips to museums and galleries, musical and dramatic performances. Although the primary focus is on the Western tradition, some works from other world cultures are included.

Proposed Project

- Joanna DelMonaco will implement within Dona Cady's Introduction to the Humanities course three modules on ratio and proportion related to the visual and plastic arts during the Classical, Renaissance, and Modern ages.
- Implementation is set for Fall 2007.

MAC Course Goals

Students will understand:

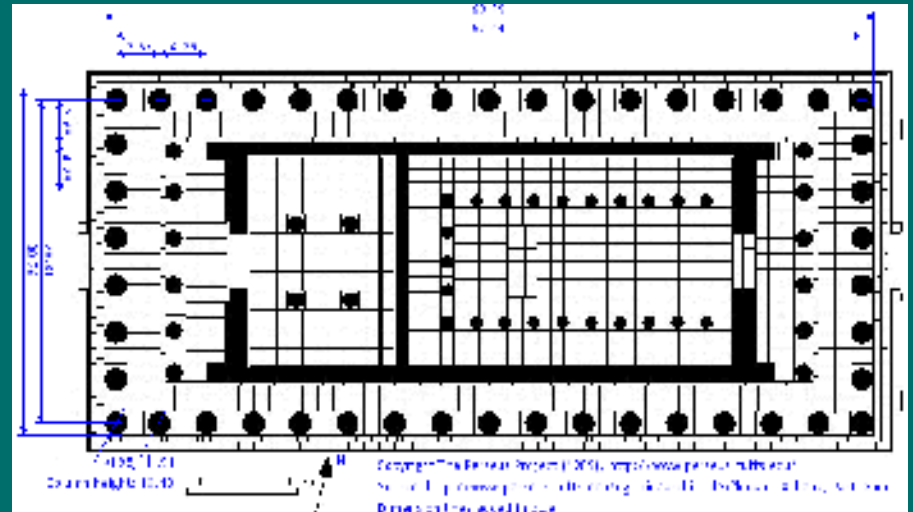
- The concepts of ratio and proportion
- The concept of the Golden Ratio
- The calculation methods for proportions in the visual and plastic arts
- How the aesthetics of ratio and proportion in the visual and plastic arts change over time
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Classical Period



- Define Golden Ratio, Golden Mean, Fibonacci Sequence
- Define ratio and proportion

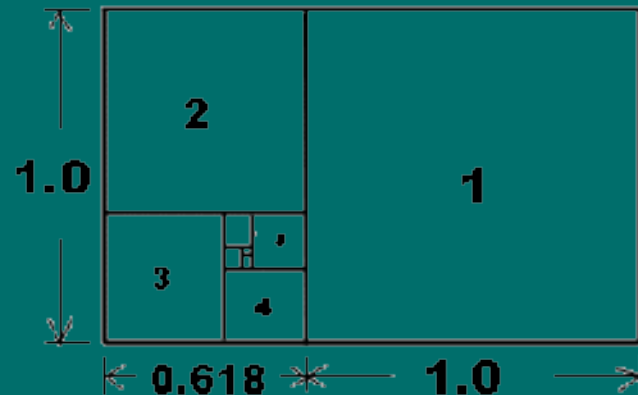
- Measure the Parthenon to determine ratios



Classical Period

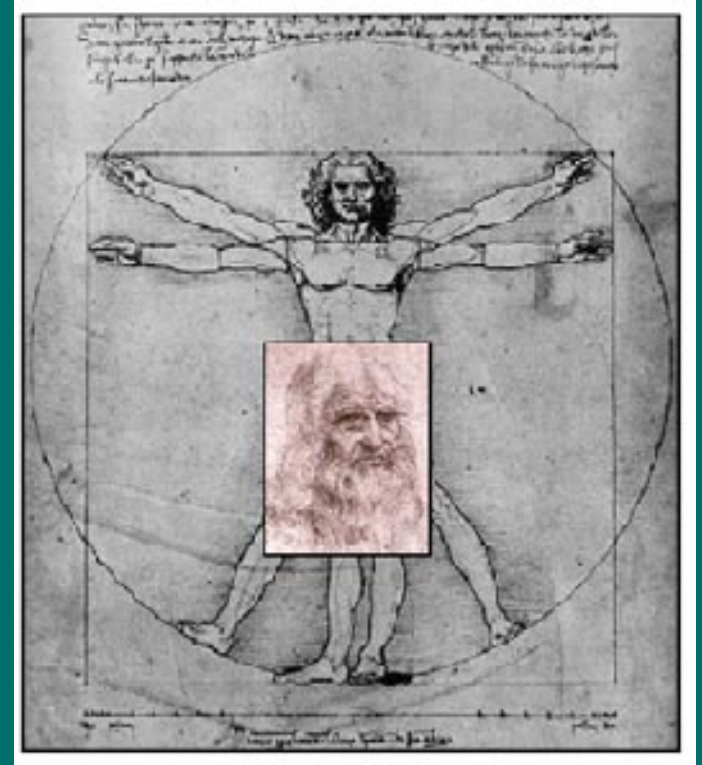


"Phi" $\phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$

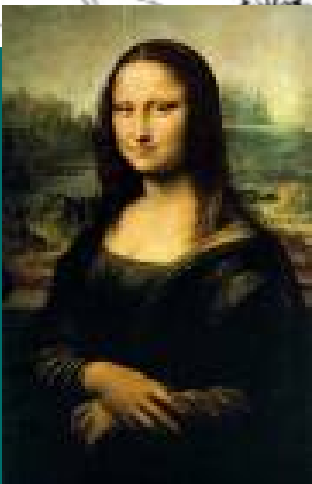
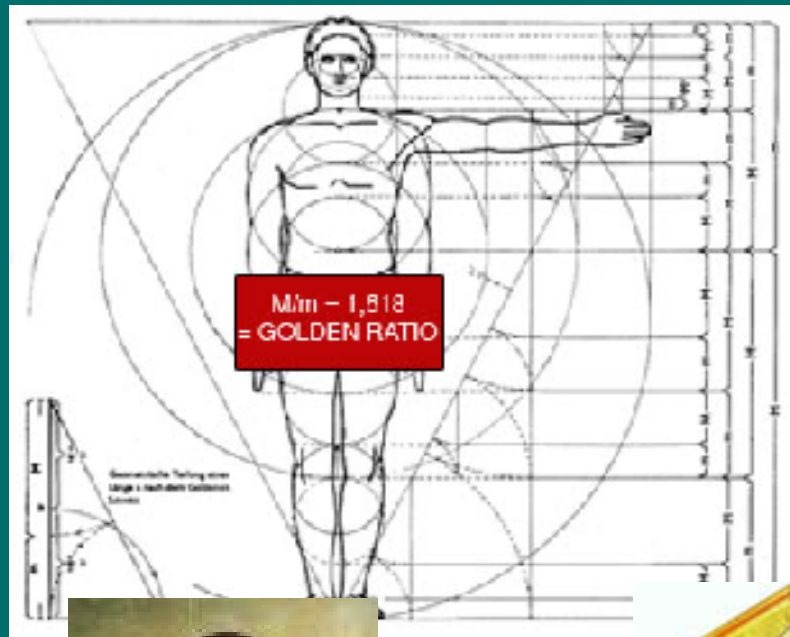


Renaissance

- Discuss proportions in the visual and plastic arts during the Renaissance
- Measure ratios found in works during Renaissance
- Compare/contrast with works from the Classical Period



Renaissance

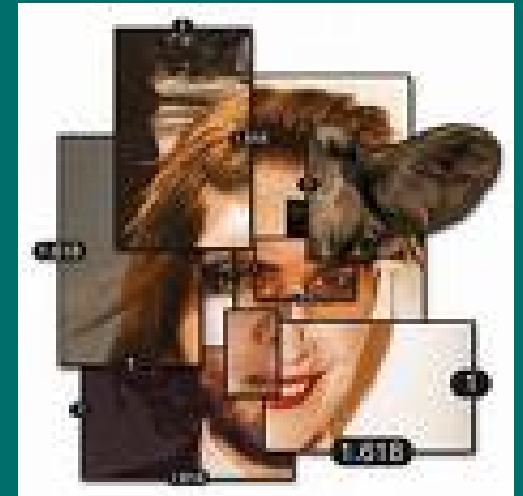
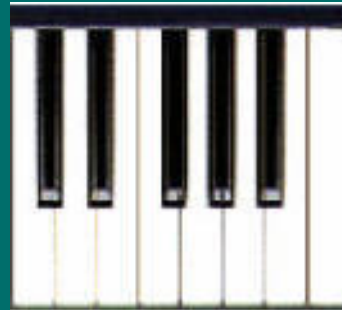
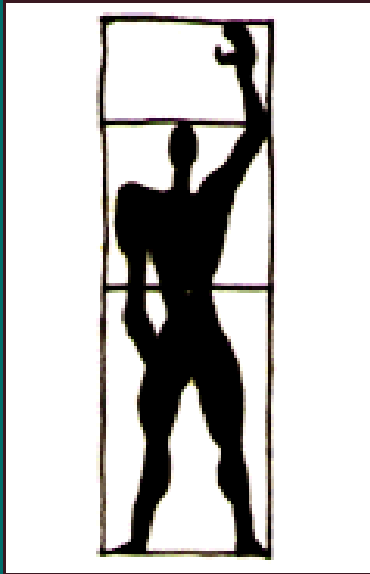


Modernism

- Analyze ratios in paintings, pictures, buildings, advertisements, and movie formats
- Compare/Contrast with Classical Period and Renaissance



Modernism



Assessment

- Activities
 - Scavenger hunt
 - Museum visit
- Homework
 - Worksheets
- Essays
 - Short Answer
 - Exams

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