



Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Khan Academy SmartHistory: Art History



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](http://www.khanacademy.org)

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Format

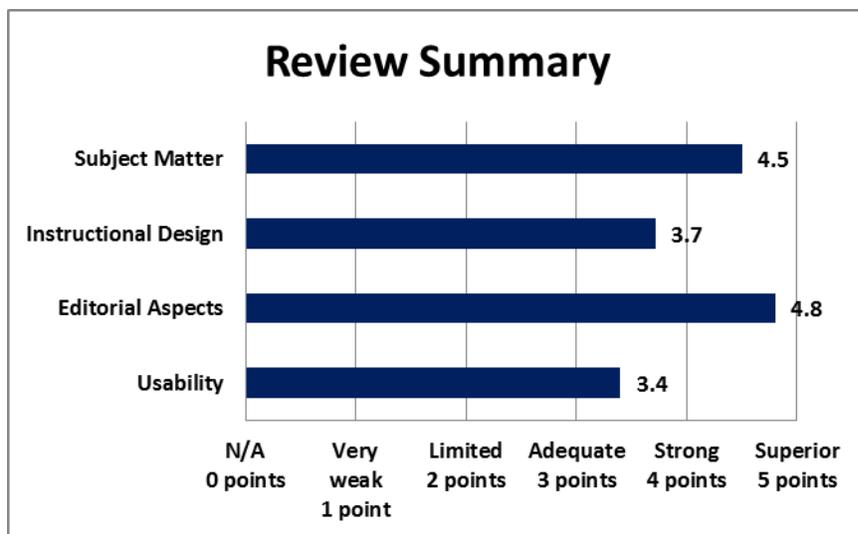
Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

March 2015



California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [ARTH 120](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?						X
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?						X
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?				X		

Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						X

Total Points: 27 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The scope of artworks included is more than sufficiently broad. The depth within each style period is extensive. The details provided by the speakers are in-depth, interesting, and explained within the historical context. The speakers are animated and contagiously enthusiastic. An additional feature that I believe is an extra benefit to students are the comments sections, where students generally pose thoughtful questions that are answered quickly and correctly and allow for deeper investigation.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?						X
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)					X	
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?		X				
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?						X
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?					X	
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)			X			
Is the textbook searchable?						X

Total Points: 26 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- There is a suggested syllabus, but it is very general and not really suitable; however most instructors I know are more inclined to decline textbook provided outlines in favor of personalized ones. The navigation of the new Khan Academy layout is less intuitive than the old SmartHistory layout, and the navigation in and out of time periods and topics is less fluid. Each topical unit is clearly organized and visually clear, and they are generally preceded by sections explaining pertinent terms and context. Quizzes are well placed throughout the units.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?						X
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					X	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)						X
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)						X
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)						X

Total Points: 24 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- There are some problems with YouTube closed-captioning, where certain precise art historical terms and names are mis-translated and misspelled. However, there are many recent corrections that indicate a robust effort to fix these problems.

Usability (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?						X
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)					X	
Can the textbook be printed easily?			X			
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?						X
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?		X				

Total Points: 17 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- There is an excellent app for mobile devices. Videos can be easily downloaded to mobile device or laptop computer. Lacks ability to annotate and bookmark. Lacks ability for teacher to layout progress path for students.

Overall Ratings						
	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?						X
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?						X

Total Points: 10 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- I would highly recommend. High quality content, engaging discussions, ease of use, good accessibility, and students are generally enthusiastic towards the text. Students can join a teacher's class and all their activity can be tracked with granular reports and analysis provided.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- Ability for teachers to have an internally based playlist/reading list/ syllabus. Ability to download or export student progress.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)
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