

ART 1301: Art Appreciation / US-Art, Tech and Civilization

Josephine Durkin
Associate Professor of Art

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6– 7:15 p.m.

Wathena Temple Fine Arts 131

We will also be working in the Sculpture Lab, as needed, for hands-on material projects.

Office Location: A116 in the main Art Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. Please email me to schedule.

Please Note: I am happy to meet with you to discuss your project ideas and/or class progress during my office hours. If you would like to meet with me, please email me to make an appointment during my office hours. You are more than welcome to stop by my office, but I suggest making an appointment because I may be assisting students with video equipment, sculpture equipment or doing graduate studio visits during these hours.

Email Address: Josephine.Durkin@tamuc.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

Students will learn about a variety of roles, people and practices that allow the art world to exist and function for both the artist, the viewer, and the forum or exhibition space, along with documentation and reviews of art work. Students will understand how these many roles and practices allow for art to be experienced, appreciated, shared and critiqued.

Through lectures (some by visiting artists and directors), readings, discussions, video interviews and documentaries, mandatory gallery and museum trips and reviews, peer information sharing with text and image-based boards, hands-on material experimentation and art making, students will be exposed to contemporary art works, the multiple practices that make up the art world, and how to better read, talk about and critique work. Students will also experience the thinking/making/doing/editing/problem solving processes that allow for artists to experiment and make work. Students will gain a better understanding and appreciation of art, studio processes, gallery and museum practices, and learn how art is critiqued and reviewed.

Texts: *The Critique Handbook* by Kendall Buster and Paula Crawford

Inside the Studio: Talks with New York Artists by Judith Olch Richards

You will need both of these texts by September 16th. They can be ordered through Amazon.

Assignments:

Assignments are given one-at-a-time and class time will alternate between lecture, discussion, informal student presentations, documentary, hands-on art making and demonstrations (in the Sculpture Lab, as needed) and a class gallery visit day (On a Friday in November, date to be announced soon).

Homework for each student will include reading to prepare for class discussion, making regular gallery and museum trips (outside of class – throughout the duration of the semester), art research, printing out images and show information to post and share through idea / inspiration boards, and making art by experimenting with specific techniques.

Projects and Due Dates: Project descriptions for each assignment, along with due dates, are given one-at-a-time.

Note on Materials: Each student is responsible for purchasing his or her own materials. Materials for art demonstration purposes will be provided.

Note on Grading: Students will be graded on their level and consistency of participation, as well as their commitment to and understanding of each assignment. For example, students who consistently go to galleries, look at art, take images, share their experiences with the class, put a lot of time and effort into art making projects while following the guidelines, and thoroughly read and actively discuss the assigned readings are going to earn a much higher grade than someone who is not making the trips, not doing and sharing research, not working through material projects, and not actively participating and positively contributing to class activity and discussion. A high level of effort, preparedness, positive participation and professionalism is consistently required to pass and earn a high grade in this class. The more involved you are, the higher your grade will be.

Attendance Policy:

Students may not miss more than three classes. Coming to class without materials to work during class counts as an absence. A fourth absence results in a failing grade. I reserve the right to drop a student who has four or more absences. Each student may not miss a critique. Missing a critique results in a failing grade for the semester. Do not be late to class. Tardiness will negatively affect your grade. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be counted absent. I do not differentiate between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. Missing a critique or not having a project for the critique results in a failing (F) grade for the semester.

Semester Schedule Notes: We will not be having class on September 18th, October 14th and October 16th. I will be away for research purposes, and out-of-state for a lecture.

Statement on Student Behavior:

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

University Specific Procedures:

Texas A&M University – Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource materials. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

Statement on Accommodations for ADA eligible students:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact me, and

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
903-886-5150 or 903-886-5835
Fax 903-468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Core Objectives, Learning Objectives and Assessment Methods

Critical Thinking:

1. Students will develop and execute effective processes for completing tasks. Students will develop an understanding of how to work with materials by using specific techniques and materials to complete assignments.
2. Students will demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines. Students will discuss how art works rely on a variety of interests and disciplines to communicate and suggest certain meanings.

Communication:

In written, oral and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure. Students will make, present and discuss work for and during class.

Teamwork:

Students will be able to engage with peers through the exchange of research and ideas in a way that demonstrates their understanding of relevant concepts. Students will be able to engage by responding to the work and research of their peers during class presentation and discussion, while evaluating how presented art works are functioning, while focusing on if an art work is effectively communicating particular meanings and experiences. Relevant concepts may focus on particular aesthetic choices, the importance of intentionality, metaphor, material and history in work.

Personal Responsibility:

Students will be able to understand their role in their own education. Students will learn that they have to work consistently and effectively in and outside of class to complete assignments of quality on time.

Students will be able to recognize the interconnectedness of personal choices, responsibilities, and consequence. Students will learn that they have to manage their time wisely and responsibly to perform well in the course.