



ART HISTORY 1301.001
Art, Technology and Civilization
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2015

Instructor: Professor Holly Stevens

Meeting Times and Location: F, 11:00 am to 1:40 pm, ART 111

Office Location and Hours: By appointment

University Email Address: Holly.Stevens@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Materials:

Title: Understanding Art

Edition: The 8th, 9th or 10th – any of the aforementioned editions may be used for the class assignments and readings.

Author: Lois Fichner-Rathus

ISBN: 0495905666

Required: Yes

Course Description:

ART 1301 - (ART 202) - This course examines the relationships between the visual arts and other expressions of human imagination and invention. Special attention is given to parallel developments in the histories of ideas, technology and art.

Texas Common Course Number (ARTS 1301)

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify materials and techniques used to create works of art.
2. Students will be able to interpret various technologies and their relation to changing ideas and styles of art in the Western world.
3. Students will learn to differentiate and distinguish between various cultures and time periods in the Western world via works of art.
4. By the end of the semester, students should be able to evaluate a given work of art, identifying the time period, technology and technique behind said work of art.

Students' ability to meet the course objectives and learning outcomes will be evaluated through quizzes, discussion, and a course project.

Please note: This syllabus is your contract with me, the professor, for the semester. By enrolling in this class you agree to the policies and requirements set out below and understand that all the requirements must be fulfilled to pass this class. These terms are non-negotiable and will remain in effect for the duration of the semester. If you have any questions about anything in this syllabus, please ask.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance and Participation:

I cannot make you come to class. However, the class has been structured in such a way that frequent quizzes are given, nearly every class meeting. Only the two lowest scores on these quizzes are dropped; missed quizzes cannot be made up. Arriving late to class means that you have missed the quiz.

I enjoy teaching and I love the material we are covering. As such, class meetings are discussions of fascinating works of art/artists/time periods/technologies/methods. I respect and welcome input from everyone in the class as it adds to the quality of class and usually results in a tangent or bit of information I may not have normally made time to present.

I come to class fully prepared; I show up early; I respect thoughtful input. In return, I expect you to show up fully prepared, on time, and respectful of me and your fellow students.

A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent

B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent

C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent

D = Often unprepared, several absences

F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

The professor reserves the right to give unannounced pop quizzes or homework assignments. These cannot be made up and will count as part of the participation grade.

Assignments:

Quizzes: A ten to twenty point short quiz will be given at the start of most class periods. The quiz will cover assigned readings and the previous lecture. The lowest two quiz scores will be dropped in the calculation of your final grade.

Course Project: This project is worth 50 points and is outlined further in the syllabus.

Grading

Grades will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Quizzes: approx. 100 points

Course project: 50 points

The grading scale used for this course is a straight grading scale. I do not grade on a curve.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare your short written assignments.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with the Instructor:

Students are encouraged to contact me for any and all reasons whatsoever. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with me is through email.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off **all** electronic devices for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for us, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged.

Academic Honesty

It is the policy of the University and me personally that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling or buying of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]).

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

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:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Statement on Student Behavior:

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

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If the instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42 – 46 of the Texas A&M University-commerce Student guidebook's Codes of Conduct for details.

Course Outline

Week 1: Iconography, Representational, Abstract, Non-Representational, Form, Content

Monday, Sept. 7: Labor Day, campus closed

Week 2: Line, Color, Texture, Implied Depth, Focal Point, Emphasis

Week 3: Drawings and Sculptures (mediums, techniques, terminology)

Week 4: Painting (mediums, techniques, terminology)

Week 5: Photography and Printmaking (mediums, techniques, terminology)

Week 6: Finish up and review all terminology, techniques and mediums

Week 7: Art History - Prehistory

Week 8: Art History - Prehistory

Week 9: Art History - Greece and Rome (Halloween! Costume Party!)

Week 10: Art History - Fall of Rome, Middle Ages

Week 11: Art History - Renaissance

Week 12: Art History - Baroque and Rococo/Course Project Due

Wednesday, Nov. 25 at noon, the campus closes for Thanksgiving. We do not have class on Friday, November 27.

Week 13: Art History – Isms

Week 14: Art History - Contemporary Art and Controversial Art

Week 15: Finals week

Course Project

Due Date: November 13 (Friday the 13th!)

Requirements: A work of art that summarizes your personality (that may be a portrait or a composition or a cake) which will be brought to class. Additionally, you will turn in a journal, detailing your 'self portrait' journey.

Points: 50 (as there will probably be 100 points for quizzes, this will project will account for 1/3rd of your grade)

Grading: You will be graded on your effort, documented in your journal, NOT how well your work of art turns out. Please DO be creative and push yourself – this course project is an opportunity to unleash your creative side without worrying about research, footnotes, margins and SpellCheck. The more you attempt, the better your score. For instance, if you start out working in charcoals but decide that pencil is the way to go, please document all of your decision-making. I would like you to get real world experience working with these materials. You may want to photograph your 'mistakes' for inclusion in your journal.

Please do not use a medium you are familiar with. Some of the lowest grades on this project have come from people who rely on something they already know – their journals end up not being very detailed and they learn very little by completing the project. If you are already a photography whiz, please choose paint or music or sculpture, for instance.

You should keep your journal starting NOW – jot down dates, ideas you have, investigations in to artists or materials, etc. Your journal will morph in to your trials and errors on the actual work of art, but please make sure to let us in to the thought process that brought you to the form and content of your work.

You do not have to mimic a known artist, although I do expect you to research other artists and their self portraits. You may also need to investigate materials or techniques to help you pull off your intended work of art. Might I suggest taking a look at:

<https://www.deviantart.com/browse/all/photography/people/selfportrait/> You can also Google materials and styles – for instance, “wood+stone+abstract+self+portrait”.

Summary: This course project will be graded on amount of time dedicated and materials mastered while creating a work of art that conveys your personality.