ART 1301.003 Art Appreciation

Instructor Information

Instructor: Christina Donaldson (she/her/hers)
Email: Christina.donaldson@unt.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays, 1pm – 3pm via Zoom (additional face-to-face meetings by appointment)
Office: TBD

This class meets every Tues/Thurs 2:00pm – 3:20pm in room LANG 214.

Course Description

History and analysis of Western art with reference to non-Western cultures.

Course Structure and Content

This course aims to provide a variety of tools for appreciating art with a focus on its connection to the world around it. We will begin by exploring our definition of art, by asking ourselves the hard-to-answer question, “what is art to begin with?” Second, we will ask ourselves “how does one judge or evaluate a work of art?” In other words, is it all relative, or are there criteria we can use to judge a work of art? If so, what are the criteria, and who decides? Lastly, we will turn our attention to non-Western material culture in order to understand how its status as art or artifact is deeply political and economic. This, in turn, asks how Western audiences ought to “appreciate” such objects.

This class meets face-to-face. Do your required work before our class days. By completing our weekly readings, you will acquire the necessary information about the focus of the course. You will build on and engage with this information by engaging in collaborative discussions, activities, and lectures throughout the semester. You are expected to read, talk, and work together as part of the class. I will occasionally adjust the structure of the class to meet its’ needs throughout the semester, so check your email and Canvas regularly for adjustments to the schedule.

IMPORTANT: Please note, content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college’s practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who may feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should consider withdrawing at the start of the term and seek another course.

Course Objectives

− To critically examine our assumptions concerning the nature of art
− To understand how assumptions concerning what art is impact how and what we come to appreciate about certain objects
− Develop familiarity with key texts, ideas, and authors writing in the tradition of art criticism, aesthetic philosophy, and art anthropology
− Develop your ability and confidence to discuss current events and the art they inspire with others be comfortable with your evaluations.
Required Materials

Most readings and materials will be posted on Canvas - in addition to these, please purchase the following texts:

Not available at UNT Libraries.


Minimum Technology Requirements

To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System as well as the items listed below. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at Learn Anywhere (https://online.unt.edu/learn).

- Computer, laptop, or tablet
- Digital camera, scanner, or smartphone
- Microsoft Office Suite

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UNT IT Help Desk**

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu  
Live Chat: https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport (Links to an external site.)  
Phone: 940-565-2324  
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330  
Hours and Availability: Visit https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk (Links to an external site.)  
For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (Links to an external site.) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation so we will work as a class to collaborate in ways that encourage inclusivity.

Assignments and Course Requirements

01 Group Project: Art Presentation (20%)

In groups of three, choose a style, movement, or school from Dempsey’s text and give a presentation to the class. The presentation should last 20 minutes (with 10 additional minutes for questions). The following elements should be included:

a) What makes the style, movement, or school unique and significant
b) Select one representative artist with several exemplary images of their work that embodies the key features of the style, movement, or school

c) Utilize Berger’s theory to examine the social, political, economic factors that contributed to our understanding of the style, movement, or school as "art." In addition, choose one of the other three theorists (Bell, Collingswood, or Dickie) and ask how they would come to understand the style, movement, or school as "art" (or not art!)

For this assignment, you will present with your partners in front of the class. You will also need to turn in a written script for the presentation via canvas the day of your presentation. The script can be in outline form, rather than a formal, analytic paper, yet it must be proof-read, organized, and grammatically correct. It should also include references (APA style) for all texts that were consulted in the creation of the presentation.

02 Taste (30%)

For this assignment, listen to one of the podcasts for the Worlds series titled Guilty Pleasures (https://www.pri.org/categories/guilty-pleasures). Drawing inspiration from Guilty Pleasures, you will write a spirited defense of something you love that others would consider to be in poor taste or “campy” (as Sontag would say). Your narrative essay should include the following:

a) introduce the problem of taste
b) let the reader know why this thing transgresses good taste (what about it makes you slightly embarrassed)
c) what you love about it anyway
d) why you think it deserves a second look by those who would otherwise dismiss it as simply campy or in poor taste

You will need to incorporate a direct citation from at least one of the authors covered in this section of the course. Your paper should be between 2-3 pages, 12 pt. font, double spaced and use APA citation style.

03 Final Paper – Repatriations and Reparations (30%)

Read the following article on a current repatriation case: Foreign Policy: Africa Art Museum Europe Restitution (https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/05/15/africa-art-museum-europe-restitution-debate-book-colonialism-artifacts/). Critically evaluate the situation in a 5-page position paper (double-spaced, 12pt. font, APA citation style). In the essay, you will outline the following components:

a) the central cultural and political issues concerning the “ownership” and repatriation of indigenous African material culture (incorporate at least one direct citation from the readings covered in part three of this course)
b) how the central cultural and political issues concerning “ownership” and repatriation manifest in the current disputes between the British museum and Nigeria, and (b) what would you suggest for resolving the issue of repatriation.

Participation and Attendance (20%)

See the participation rubric on Canvas for more details. Absences will be excused if they are accompanied with official notification from a doctor or from the university. Any absence without accompanied documentation will result in the lowering of the final participation grade by a full grade point (e.g., an A will decrease to a B and so forth).

Because this course involves collaboration, participation is essential to learning. Our project-based activities require you to be actively engaged in discussions and group work. I understand tardiness and absences may
occur. If you are late to class, please drop me an email to let me know the circumstances. If you must miss class, please let me know prior to your absence.

It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community. IMPORTANT: Do this in advance, meaning more than one hour prior to the start of class.

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class, and the calendar is subject to change, please see UNT’s webpage for the Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf).

Assessing Your Work

A: 90% course average or above. Excellent work produced throughout the semester.
B: 80% course average or above. Good work produced throughout the semester.
C: 70% course average or above. Fair work produced throughout the semester.
D: 60% course average or above. Passing work produced throughout the semester.

Late Policy

All work should be turned in on time according to the due date specified on the syllabus. For each day late, the grade will drop by 1/3 of a percentage point. Thus, if an A paper is turned in one day late, then the grade will drop to an A- and so forth unless special permission by the university or a doctor is provided.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on mastery of the content. As a rule, I do not grade on a “curve” because that is a comparison of your outcomes to others. I do, however, encourage you to find opportunities to learn with and through others. Explore Navigate’s Study Buddy (https://navigate.unt.edu) tool to join study groups. Maximize your learning with our coaching staff at the Learning Center.

Academic Integrity

Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. Students who use other people’s work without citations will be violating UNT’s Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of guidelines for your academic success (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email me or come discuss this with me during my office hours.

UNT Policies

Student Academic Integrity Policy

The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University’s actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.
Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Access to Information

Eagle Connect Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: Page 3 of 4 my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/
Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.
ART 1301.003 Honors Art Appreciation

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

Printed Name_________________________________ Student ID#________________________

Phone___________________________________ email____________________________

Acknowledgment
I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of me in this course. I understand the course structure, grading, and attendance policies. I have had the opportunity to ask questions. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

______________________________________________________________________________

Course Number and Section

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Signature ________________________________ Date ________________________________