

College of Visual Arts and Design, University of North Texas

Spring 2026

Course Information

- **Course:** ART 1301 Section 001
- **Title:** Honors Art Appreciation
- **Credit Hours:** 3
- **Meeting Days/Time:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30–10:50 AM
- **Location:** ART 280

Instructor

- **Instructor:** Julia Freund
 - **Email:** Julia.freund@unt.edu
 - **Office Hours:** By appointment (email to schedule)
 - **Availability:** Mondays / Wednesdays 11:00–11:50 AM; Fridays 10:00–10:50 AM
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Course Description

CORE Creative Arts – Component Area Option A (Honors Course)

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

This course develops visual awareness and literacy through a thematic study of global art, architecture, and design—from the earliest human artistic activity to contemporary issues such as collective memory, selfhood, and repatriation. Lectures, breakout activities, and discussions will prepare students to appreciate art in everyday life and beyond, discuss it from different perspectives, think critically, and make oral and written arguments. Field visits extend course content and provide opportunities to apply new vocabulary and skills in both oral and written formats.

Content Notice

Please be aware that some students may find some course material and images disturbing or challenging due to violent, sexual, and political themes that can appear in Art Appreciation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Survey historical art from a global perspective.
 - Use interdisciplinary approaches to art's creation, reception, and meaning.
 - Connect past and present by examining how art engages history.
 - Build skills in art analysis, historical context, and basic research.
 - Analyze, interpret, and evaluate artworks.
 - Gain confidence in discussing and experiencing art.
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Core Objectives

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will develop creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

Communication Skills

Students will develop effective development, interpretation, and communication of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

Teamwork

Students will examine works of art as a group, considering different points of view and working effectively with others toward a shared purpose or goal.

Social Responsibility

Students will build intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Structure

This course meets **in person** twice per week for lecture, discussion, and student presentations. Readings and media are posted on Canvas inside each weekly module. **Students should complete assigned materials before the class meeting so we can use our time for close looking, lecture, and discussion.**

Most class meetings take place in ART 280. We will also have two field visits during class time (scheduled below) and one independent visit that you complete on your own time at a

museum, gallery, or public site. On field-visit days, we will meet and return well within our normal class window with plenty of time to reach an 11:00 AM class.

Assignment Structure

Each week, students will complete assigned readings and respond to them through weekly **journals** and in-class **discussion**. Students will also have opportunities to deepen their learning and build research skills through an **in-class presentation**, an **individual field visit reflection**, and an **extended final research paper** focused on an artwork from the course of their choosing.

1) Journal Responses (5 total): 18%

During the first half of the semester, you will submit **five** journal responses on Canvas that connect directly to the week's assigned readings and images. For each journal, you'll choose from **2–4 prompt options** (a mix of visual and written prompts) designed to help you practice key course vocabulary and build confidence writing about art from evidence. Journals are due **Tuesdays at 9:30 AM** on Canvas (after the first week of class).

2) Class Discussions: 12%

Class discussions are guided by the readings and by careful looking at works shown in class. You are expected to arrive prepared, having completed the assigned materials before the meeting so you can contribute specific observations, connections to terms, and questions for the group. Discussions will happen in person or on Canvas, depending on the week's readings.

3) "Craft and Conflict" Presentation: 20%

You will complete one short presentation that uses artworks to help us understand a specific historical conflict and its moment. You will select a research topic from a list provided in Week 2, and you'll prepare a slide deck that introduces the conflict, identifies the artworks, and explains what the artwork(s) show us through formal analysis and historical context. The presentation grade is split into two parts: **(a) Presentation Slides (%8)** due on Canvas on the assigned date, and **(b) Live Presentation (12%)** delivered on your scheduled day in class. Your talk should be 7-10 minutes, supported by 6–8 slides with image captions and a MLA works cited slide.

4) Independent Field Visit: Art Analysis Reflection 15%

You will visit one artwork in person at a museum, gallery, or public site and complete an evidence-based formal analysis using course concepts and vocabulary. Your reflection focuses on materials, visual elements, and principles of design, and it must also make at least one comparison to an idea or artwork from our course materials to show transfer of learning. You will submit a completed written analysis worksheet (Word document) and include two photographs: (1) a selfie with the artwork and (2) the artwork alone.

5) Object ID (Artwork Selection Document) 5%

To begin the final research project, you will submit a one-page Object ID document that clearly identifies the artwork (sources in MLA format) you will study for the rest of the semester. This document will be provided in the form of a handout (and a word document on Canvas) at the appropriate time of the semester.

6) Initial Draft + Informal Research Share 10%

After submitting your Object ID, you will conduct independent research and write an initial draft of your paper that develops a focused claim supported by visual analysis and credible sources. The initial draft should be roughly 5 pages (about 1,250 words) not counting the Works Cited, and it must be brought to class in printed form on the due date. Near the end of the term, you will also complete a brief, low-stakes research share in class: three sentences that state your object, your current claim, and one key piece of evidence, accompanied by one image you will submit on Canvas beforehand.

7) Final Research Paper (Final Exam submission) 20%

Your final paper is submitted on Canvas during the final exam window May 7th by 9:30 AM (there is no in-person final exam for this course). The final paper is a minimum of 7 pages (about 2,500 words) not counting the Works Cited, title page, and reference images, and it must show implementation of the written feedback received on your initial draft you must use MLA in-text citations and include reference images, preferably primary sources, and a Works Cited page.

Required Text : There is no assigned textbook for this course. Students will have access to the required readings via Canvas. Supplementary materials and/or readings will be at the student's discretion regarding personal research topics.

Technology requirements for courses with digital materials : This course uses digital materials. You will need internet access, Canvas, and Microsoft Office. Any additional requirements will be announced. For tips on succeeding in a digital environment, visit [Learn Anywhere](#)

Attendance Policy:

Regular, on-time attendance is required. Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF)(<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>).

Although it is not recommended to miss class, personal illness and emergencies do come up, **3 unexcused absences are allotted** before your grade will be penalized; **each additional absence lowers your final grade by one letter** unless excused under [UNT policy 06.039](#) with proper documentation. Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments occur at the start of class and are not repeated. Missed quizzes, exams, or in-class work can only be made up with an approved excuse; missed discussions cannot be made up and will affect your discussion grade.

Late arrivals and early departures: Being punctual indicates our respect for others. Please arrive before class begins to find a seat, prepare your materials, and connect with your peers.

The beginning of class is especially critical—just like the beginning of a movie or book. Being late to class is sometimes inevitable. If you are late, know that you are welcome to join the class, but please do so without distracting others. If you are **10+ minutes late three times it will constitute an unexcused absence**. Leaving early will likewise affect your grade.

Should you miss any portion of class, it is up to you to get notes and announcements from a classmate.

Late Work Policy:

I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will **receive a grade of zero** unless the student has a [university-excused absence](#), and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline. Emailed submissions are *not* accepted *at any time, under any circumstances*. All writings, readings, discussions, presentations, and assignments must be completed and ready to be presented before class starts, unless otherwise stated by the instructor.

Recording: Recording of the class is not permitted unless you have documented accommodation with the UNT Office of Disability Access (ODA) and have received permission from the instructor.

Time Commitment: Make a commitment to spending at least 5 hours a week on this course. Each opportunity to read, write, look, contribute to discussions, and create original research will directly benefit your grade and personal growth.

Communication Expectations: While I aim to be as available as possible, there are limits on when and how I can be contacted. For general course or assignment questions, please raise the question during our class Q&A time so that the entire class can benefit from the answers. You may also choose a “class buddy” to share questions and resources with. For private matters, contact me in person or via email. I typically respond within 24 hours on weekdays; if you have not heard back in two days, send a polite follow-up. Please do not expect responses over the weekend.

Professionalism: When reaching out, be respectful and professional in tone. Before emailing, check Canvas, the syllabus, and assignment prompts. Think about whether your question would be valuable for the entire class to hear. For your first three absences, no explanation is required—just notify me (e.g., “I can’t make it today”).

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment: I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please set up an appointment to meet with me during my office hours and let me know. We are all learning together.

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.

Statement on Flexibility: Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need to be adaptable because we all learn differently. I highly recommend registering for academic accommodations if you have ongoing circumstances. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet your needs and the requirements of the course syllabi.

Assurances:

ADA Accommodation :

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first [register with the Office of Disability Access \(ODA\)](#) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Academic Integrity:

According to [UNT Policy 18.1.16](#), 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. Academic Integrity Policy (PDF) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>)

Academic Integrity Continued; Use of GenAI tools:

Non-Permitted Use: Per the UNT Honor Code, all work you submit must be your own. Using Generative AI (GenAI) to fully write responses, scripts, or complete assignments—whether or not you credit it—is not allowed. Example: copying a ChatGPT-written response directly into Canvas.

Permitted Use: You may use GenAI tools (e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini) to support your learning, get a list of resources, template, or check your own writing (e.g., using Grammarly for grammar). GenAI should add to—not replace—our course work.

Incomplete Grades: An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a

justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for a Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes (not the exam date). Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students.

Course Evaluation : Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu.

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. Senate Bill 212 requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, report any information to the Title IX Office regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive any information of this type (including, but not limited to, writing assignments, class discussions, or one-on-one conversations) must be reported. I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please reach out to UNT [survivor advocate](#)

. For more information about reporting options and resources visit, <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/programs-and-services/survivor-advocate/get-help>

Emergency Notification & Procedures * UNT Emergency guide :

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](#) to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course management system for contingency plans for covering course materials. students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class, the calendar is subject to change, Campus Closures Policy (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006>).

Course Risk Factor :

According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category 1 course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students in this class will be informed of any potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

Mental Health Support:

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [Individual Counseling including Walk in Crisis Hours](#)

Research Support:

UNT Libraries: Website: <https://library.unt.edu/>

Research and catalog: <https://library.unt.edu/research/>

Email the [Art Librarian](#) for research help: Rebecca.Barham@unt.edu

Academic Support:

Writing Center : Writing assistance such as proof reading for all students, available through booking a free appointment on the writing center's website: <https://writingcenter.unt.edu/>

Academic Success Center: <https://www.unt.edu/success/asc>

Academic Resource Center : <https://digitalstrategy.unt.edu/>

Technology Support :

Part of working in a digital world is dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. I highly recommend you take all technical problems to a [UNT IT](#) service desk. Here at UNT and within [CVAD](#) we have a [Student Help Desk](#) that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

The professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus and schedule if necessary.