

Instructor: Dr. Kurt Rahmlow  
Office: Art Building, Room 229  
Office phone: 940-565-4777  
E-mail: Please use Blackboard  
Office hours: T, Th 2:00-3:30

The teaching assistants for this course are:

Adela Andea  
Bita Zamorano  
Kristi Reese

They will be posting their office hours and contact information to Blackboard. In the meantime, they may be reached by e-mail through the Blackboard system. Please avail yourselves of their assistance. They are here to help you. If you have questions, or if you need help reviewing for an exam, please contact them. In addition, if you have a question about a grade, please first speak to the TA who evaluated your work. If you are not able to resolve your concern by doing so, then contact me. I will not address the issue with you until you have first spoken with your TA.

**ART 1300-001, 807, 832:  
Art Appreciation for Non-Majors\***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Introduction to basic concepts and vocabularies of the visual arts worldwide, designed to expand aesthetic growth and involvement with the visual world. For non-art majors only. Satisfies the Visual and Performing Arts requirement of the University Core Curriculum.

As the catalog description indicates, this course is designed to give undergraduates a “way into” the often challenging, confusing, even intimidating, but potentially enriching field of objects that we refer to as “artworks.” This course will be divided into two parts. The first will introduce students to the various forms of art and the processes of making and interacting with it. The second, and larger, portion will survey works from a wide range of contexts. This survey will not be organized chronologically. Instead, it will be structured around a series of humanistic themes. As we consider each theme, we will examine works from a broad spectrum of historical and cultural contexts. This class is designed for students who have had little or no experience with art historical coursework—that is, it presupposes no working familiarity with art historical terminologies, methodologies, and practices. Due to the size of this class, meetings will almost exclusively involve PowerPoint lectures. Students will be required to prepare several short writing assignments and sit a series of three exams. Students will also be required to make a trip to an area museum to prepare their second writing assignment.

Please bear this in mind: Some of you may find this material disturbing. Graphic violence, alternative life styles, and explicit sexuality are themes pursued by a number of contemporary artists, in particular. By remaining in this course, you are committing yourself to discussing and viewing these works.

Please also bear this in mind: You may find this course challenging. The interpretation and analysis of art can be quite demanding, intellectually speaking. It is by no means impossible to excel, but if you are looking for that “easy A,” you may want to look elsewhere. Hard work CAN help you to excel, but please remember that it does not guarantee the sort of success you may be looking for.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Art Appreciation is designed to give students the skills necessary to understand and value the visual arts. It is also intended to fuel students’ interest in exploring the subject more fully on their own after they leave the classroom. Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to perform a visual analysis of a work of art.
2. Have the ability to describe what they see to others.
3. Recognize that a work of art reflects not only the ideas of the artist who made it, but also the time and place in which it was made.
4. Be prepared to assess the significance of a variety of artworks from different cultures and times and, as a result, gain a greater respect for different cultures.
5. Be able to distinguish the processes and materials used in making different kinds of artworks.
6. Understand how architectural spaces are designed to accommodate the activities and beliefs of human beings.
7. Have developed critical thinking and organizational skills through written assignments.

#### Course Textbooks

Lazzari, Margaret, and Dona Schlesier. *Exploring Art: A Global, Thematic Approach*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2008.

#### Using “Blackboard”

I will post a number of important documents to the course Website on “Blackboard,” including this syllabus, review sheets, and assignments. You will be able to track your grades on this site, too, and I will ask you to submit your writing assignments electronically using its Turnitin function. You can access “Blackboard” by following these steps:

1. Go to the UNT homepage.
2. Click on the Blackboard link.
3. Log into the system.

#### Course Requirements

*Formal Analysis Paper*—20% of final grade

*Museum Visit Paper*—15% of final grade

*Exam #1*—15% of final grade

*Exam #2*—25% of final grade

*Exam #3*—25% of final grade

### *Attendance*

**Attendance** and timely arrival are mandatory. If you cannot commit to attending lectures, or if you believe you will regularly be late to class, please drop this course. Due to the size of the class, I will not be taking attendance, but my experience suggests that those students who attend regularly will do better than those who do not. It is also mandatory that you arrive having carefully prepared the day's assignments. I cannot emphasize this last point enough. This means that you must read the day's assignments closely, making written notes about items of interest, points of critique, possible connections to other materials that we have covered, etc.

I do not allow the use of **cellular phones, pagers, laptop computers, iPads, or recording devices** in this classroom, except by special permission. If you have a disability that forces you to use a laptop or a recording device, please provide me with the proper documentation (see below), and I will gladly make an exception in your case. If you are in the midst of a personal emergency that requires you to keep your telephone active, please silence it and excuse yourself discreetly if it should ring. Otherwise, all cell phones and laptops **MUST** be shut off and put away before the start of class. If you do not adhere to this requirement, I will ask you to leave the classroom.

Finally, please be aware that I hold this class to appropriate standards of **collegiality** and decorum. The free exchange of ideas requires that we respect each other and listen carefully to one another. Please feel free to disagree with an interpretation and debate ideas with other students and with me. I do ask, however, that you refrain from insulting or abusing other students, and I ask that you do not conduct conversations, sleep, read the newspaper, send text messages, or wander in and out of class while I or one of your classmates is speaking. If you cannot observe this requirement, I will ask you to leave the classroom.

### *Formal Analysis Paper*

During the first part of the term, you will write a **3-page** formal analysis paper on a specific work of art or architecture. The Formal Analysis Paper will not be research-based, but will be your response to a specific task, as outlined in an assignment sheet that I will post to Blackboard two weeks before the essay is due. This assignment will receive a numerical grade ranging from 0 to 100. A corresponding letter grade will conform to the grading scale below. This assignment must be submitted electronically using the Turnitin function on Blackboard.

A note on paper format: A page requirement **ALWAYS** refers to **FULL** pages. Additionally, please do **NOT** pad your papers by adding unnecessary spacing, particularly between paragraphs. All papers should have 1" margins all around, 12-point font, double spacing (**NOT** triple spacing), and single returns (there should not be any double returns anywhere on a paper). Include a title page. Include "figures" (images of the works you discuss), as necessary, at the end of the paper (not spliced into the text), and identify them by artist, title, and date in a caption. Finally, always staple and number your multi-page papers, when submitted in hard copy.

### *Museum Visit Paper*

During the second half of the term, you will write a **2-page** analysis of a visit to an art gallery or museum of your choice. As with the Formal Analysis Paper, this will not be research-based, but will be your response to a specific task, as outlined in an assignment sheet that I will post to

Blackboard two weeks before the essay is due. This assignment will receive a numerical grade ranging from 0 to 100. A corresponding letter grade will conform to the grading scale below. This assignment must be submitted electronically using the Turnitin function on Blackboard. The remarks on paper format that I made above apply in this case, too.

### *Examinations*

You will demonstrate your grasp of the material we have covered in class by sitting three in-class examinations (see the course schedule for respective dates and times). The format will include some combination of multiple choice questions, short answers, and essays. The first of these will cover less material than the other two, so it will count for 15% of your final grade. The second and third will each cover significantly more material, so they will each count for 25% of your final grade. Exams will receive a number grade ranging from 0 to 100. Corresponding letter grades will conform to the grading scale listed below. We only grant make-up exams in extreme cases, and we require formal documentation of hardship before we schedule them. The exception to this rule is the observance of religious holidays; however, if you are going to miss an exam for this reason, we require advance notification. Additionally, no matter what the cause of your absence, you **MUST** contact your TA no more than 24 hours after the exam concludes, either by phone or by e-mail to schedule a make-up; if you fail to contact us within this period, you will forfeit your right to taking a make-up exam.

### *Late and Missed Assignments*

All written assignments that must be submitted through the Turnitin function on Blackboard are due at the date and time noted on the assignment sheet. Any assignment submitted later than the time specified, even by one minute, will be counted late. Any assignments due in hard copy in class are due at the beginning of class. Assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for every calendar day they are late. If you miss a deadline of any sort due to absence, and you have a legitimate excuse (for example, you were seriously ill, or your car exploded in the parking lot of McDonald's while you were inside getting breakfast on the way to class), then you **MUST** notify your TA within 24 hours. You **MUST** also have proper documentation of your excuse. If you cannot document a legitimate excuse, then your work will be subject to late penalties. If you are experiencing difficulties that you believe will interfere with your ability to complete an assignment on time, please notify your TA in advance of the due date so that you can discuss the situation.

### *Grading Scale*

A+	97-100
A	94-96
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66

D- 60-63  
F 0-59

### University and Departmental Policies

#### *Plagiarism and Cheating*

Please note: I feel *very* strongly about this. *Please* do not do this in my course. It would embarrass us both, and it would make me feel stressed out, disappointed, and depressed. If I catch you cheating or plagiarizing, I will certainly fail you for the assignment, possibly for the course, and report you for disciplinary action. Please take pride in your abilities and your work and give this class your best honest effort. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please see me. In general, if you use someone else's words or ideas, you must acknowledge that you are borrowing them—you may not pass them off as your own. In addition, if you accept so much assistance on a project that the work is no longer substantially your own, you have cheated. Regarding quizzes and exams, all of these will be "closed book." Accepting or seeking any assistance from, or seeking reference to, another person, piece of writing, or electronic source, constitutes cheating. Put simply, just bear in mind that your responsibility in this course is to earn your score by virtue of your own best effort.

#### *Students with Disabilities*

The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at [www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda), and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940-565-4323.

#### *Course Risk Factor*

According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category one course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students 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.

#### *Building Emergency Procedures*

In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on

your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.

*Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities*

Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr) for further information.

Course Schedule

Week 1

08/26: Introductions; course overview.

Week 2

08/29: Defining art; reading—*Exploring Art* (hereafter abbreviated as *EA*), pp. 3-11.

08/31: Categories of visual culture; reading—*EA*, pp. 11-22.

09/02: Formal elements of art; reading—*EA*, pp. 24-46.

Week 3

09/05: No class today; Labor Day!

09/07: Formal elements of architecture; reading—*EA*, pp. 46-54.

09/09: The materials and processes of art making; reading—*EA*, pp. 55-71.

Week 4

09/12: The materials and processes of art making (cont.); reading—*EA*, pp. 71-86.

09/14: “Reading” art; reading—*EA*, pp. 87-96.

09/16: Schools of interpretation; reading—*EA*, pp. 96-102; **Formal Analysis Paper assigned; exam review sheet distributed.**

Week 5

09/19: Art and its institutions; reading—*EA*, pp. 103-117.

09/21: Art and its institutions (cont.), followed by exam review; reading—*EA*, pp. 117-124.

09/23: **Exam #1.**

### Week 6

09/26: Food, followed by a primer on academic writing; reading—*EA*, pp. 127-147.

09/28: Food (cont.), followed by a primer on thesis statements.

09/30: Shelter; reading—*EA*, pp. 147-156; **Formal Analysis Paper due.**

### Week 7

10/03: Reproduction and sexuality; reading—*EA*, pp. 157-185.

10/05: Reproduction and sexuality (cont.), followed by religion; reading—*EA*, pp. 186-211.

10/07: Places of worship; reading—*EA*, pp. 211-232.

### Week 8

10/10: Places of worship (cont.).

10/12: Mortality and immortality; reading—*EA*, pp. 233-258.

10/14: Mortality and immortality (cont.).

### Week 9

10/17: Memorials; reading—*EA*, pp. 258-263.

10/19: Power, politics, and glory; reading—*EA*, pp. 265-285.

10/21: Power, politics, and glory (cont.); **review sheet distributed.**

### Week 10

10/24: War and peace; reading—*EA*, pp. 285-298.

10/26: War and peace (cont.), followed by exam review.

10/28: **Exam #2**

### Week 11

10/31: Social protest/affirmation; reading—*EA*, pp. 299-318.

11/02: Social protest/affirmation (cont.); reading—*EA*, pp. 318-327.

11/04: Mind and body; reading—*EA*, pp. 329-350.

Week 12

11/07: Mind and body (cont.); reading—*EA*, pp. 350-360.

11/09: Mind and body (cont.).

11/11: Race and gender; reading—*EA*, pp. 361-377.

Week 13

11/14: Race and gender (cont.).

11/16: Clan and class; reading—*EA*, pp. 378-396.

11/18: Nature; reading—*EA*, pp. 397-416; **Museum Visit Paper assigned.**

Week 14

11/21: Nature; reading—*EA*, pp. 416-418.

11/23: Nature and art revisited: Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

11/25: No class today; Thanksgiving break!

Week 15

11/28: Knowledge and technology, followed by a primer on paragraphing; reading—*EA*, pp. 418-428.

11/30: Entertainment architecture; reading—*EA*, pp. 429-442.

12/02: Leisure and entertainment; reading—*EA*, pp. 442-450; **Museum Visit Paper due.**

Week 16

12/05: Art and visual culture; reading—*EA*, pp. 450-456.

12/07: Art and visual culture (cont.), followed by exam review; **review sheet distributed.**

Week 17

12/14: **Final Exam**, 8:00 am-10:00 am (Wednesday).

**\*The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at his discretion.**



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I have read this syllabus. I agree to comply with all of the provisions it describes. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies, as well as the risk factor rating. I understand that this class includes a substantial amount of reading and discussion. I understand the attendance and late policies, and I am aware that absences and late work will result in a lowered final grade. By taking this course, I agree not to commit acts of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, and failing to cite sources. I understand that, at a minimum, any act of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" for the assignment. I further understand that Dr. Rahmlow will pursue disciplinary actions against me with the University of North Texas should I commit any act of academic dishonesty. These disciplinary actions may range all the way from an "F" for the assignment to an "F" for the course, even to suspension or expulsion from the University. I acknowledge that Dr. Rahmlow reserves the right to alter his syllabus at his discretion during the course of the semester.

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Signature

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Printed name

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Date

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Student ID Number

The return of this syllabus agreement is required for continued enrollment in the course.