ART 1200-001:  
Art Appreciation*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Art elements and principles applied to forms of visual expression for art majors.

As the catalog description indicates, this course is designed to give undergraduate majors a “way in” to the often challenging, confusing, even intimidating, but potentially enriching field of objects that we refer to as “artworks.” This course will introduce students to the various forms of art and the processes of making and interacting with them. It will also offer a preliminary survey of works from a wide range of contexts. This survey will be organized by geography, culture, and chronology. Ultimately, the purpose is to give students a very basic familiarity with 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 complete a series of on-line quizzes, 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. During the last few weeks of the term, the format of the course will change: Students will be required to work in small groups to develop a joint project.

Please bear this in mind: Some of you may find this material disturbing or personally challenging. 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 intellectually 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 basic skills necessary to understand and value the visual arts. It is also intended to fuel students’ interest in exploring the subject more fully 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 is seen 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


Using Canvas

We will be using Canvas in this class. Students are required to check the course Website on Canvas on a regular basis. I will be using the Canvas messaging system to communicate with the class rather than e-mail, so please keep on top of your Inbox. In addition, I will post a number of important documents to the website, including this syllabus, but also including informational sheets and handouts. Finally, you will be able to track your grades on this site, and I will require you to turn in your formal writing assignments electronically using its Turnitin function. You can access Canvas by following these steps:
1. Go to the UNT homepage.
2. Click on the Canvas link.
3. Log into the system using your EUID and password.

To use the Turnitin function to submit your work, simply click on the appropriate assignment link on the “Assignments” portion of the course Website on Canvas (it will be labeled clearly). The software will lead you through the submission process, but be sure that your submission actually goes through! If you do not receive a message telling you that the submission was successful and giving you a submission ID number, your paper was not submitted properly.

When using the Turnitin function, please remember that it is your responsibility to (1) keep a copy of your submission, as well as proof of submission (your “digital receipt” number), (2) remember that your Turnitin submissions are final once the deadline passes (you will be able to revise your paper up to that time, but not after, so please format it properly before that date passes), and (3) upload your paper in a timely fashion in advance of the deadline—it is not an excuse that the Turnitin link was slow or overloaded on the day the paper was due (you will have several weeks to complete these assignments and submit them). I will not accept a hard copy in lieu of an electronic submission; all submissions MUST go through the designated Turnitin link on Canvas. If you are having difficulty uploading your paper, you must see your TA during office hours in advance of the deadline, and that person will help you.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation—5% of final grade
On-Line Quizzes—5% of final grade
Formal Interpretation Paper—15% of final grade
Museum Visit Paper—15% of final grade
On-Line Discussion Sessions—10% of final grade
Exam #1—15% of final grade
Exam #2—15% of final grade
Exam #3—20% of final grade

Attendance and Participation
Attendance and timely arrival are essential to your success in this course. If you cannot commit to attending lectures, or if you believe you will regularly be late to class, please drop this course. It is also essential 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 material that we have covered, etc. 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. In addition, if I notice that attendance is particularly low on a given day, I will give in-class quizzes. These will be unannounced, and they may not be made up. These will count toward your participation grade.

I ask that you refrain from using cellular phones, pagers, laptop computers, iPads, or recording devices in this classroom. 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, I ask that all cell phones and laptops be shut off and put away before the start of class. If you do not adhere to this request and your non-compliance creates a disturbance in the classroom, I will ask you to leave. If I see you photographing or recording my lecture without permission, you will be dismissed. If you do not leave the classroom when instructed to do so—either by me or one of my assistants—I will file a disciplinary report with the Dean of Students.

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 others, 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.

**On-Line Quizzes**
As we move through the term, you will be required to take a series of short quizzes on-line using links made available on the “Assignments” page on Canvas. These will be based on readings in the course textbook, and they will be designed to help you review that material in preparation for larger exams. These will be open-book, and you will sit them outside the classroom, but you must complete them within a specific window of time. Please see the course schedule for due dates and times. Because you will have multiple opportunities to complete these assignments, **missed quizzes may not be made up.**

**Formal Interpretation Essay**
During the first part of the term, you will write a **750- to 1,000-word** formal interpretation essay treating a specific work of art or architecture from our textbook. The Formal Interpretation Essay 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 Canvas 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 Canvas.

**Museum Visit Essay**
During the second half of the term, you will write a **650- to 900-word** analysis of a visit to a major area museum. As with the Formal Analysis Essay, 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 Canvas two weeks before the essay is due. This must involve a visit made expressly to satisfy this assignment; you may not rely on a visit made previous to this semester. The act of visiting the museum is part of the assignment. This project 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 Canvas.
On-Line Discussion Sessions
At several points during the course of the semester, students will be required to participate in on-line discussion sessions using Canvas. Students will need to, first, do some preparatory reading (articles will be posted to Canvas), then students will need to respond to those readings by posting to their group’s discussion board on Canvas. Students will also be required to respond to their classmates’ posts. More detailed directions will be outlined in a formal assignment sheet, available on the “Assignments” page on Canvas. Each “Part” (consisting of an original post and two replies) will be scored on a 0-5 scale. At the end of term, students’ discussion board scores for Parts I, II, and III will be averaged and converted into a percentage, which will then be used to calculate final grades.

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 consist entirely of multiple choice questions. The first of these will cover the basic terms and concepts that structure the interpretation of visual art. The second will deal with specific media and processes. The third will cover our brief historical survey of the Western tradition. It is worth noting that the exams will get progressively more difficult (that is, the first will be comparatively easy, whereas the last will be somewhat challenging). Exams will receive a number grade ranging from 0 to 100. Corresponding letter grades will conform to the grading scale listed below.

Late and Missed Assignments and Exams
All major written assignments must be submitted in electronic form using the Turnitin function on Canvas—Turnitin is the plagiarism detection software used by UNT. These projects are due on the dates and at the times noted on their respective assignment sheets. Any assignment submitted later than the time specified on the assignment sheet, even by one minute, will be counted late. Late submissions of major assignments will be accepted for several days after the posted deadline. However, once we have closed the link and begun grading, late submissions will no longer be accepted. All late major assignments will be penalized ten points for every calendar day they are late. If you miss a deadline of any sort due to absence, and you have a legitimate excuse (due to unavoidable circumstances—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 me by electronic message 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 deadline so that you may discuss the situation. If you are going to be out of class to observe a religious holiday on the day a written assignment is due, we require advance notification of the absence. Students are encouraged to turn in assignments early in this case, but reasonable accommodation will be made for excused students who submit their work in a timely manner. As for exams, we only grant make-ups in extreme cases involving unavoidable circumstances, 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 me by electronic message no more than 24 hours after the
exam concludes to schedule a make-up; if you fail to contact me within this period, you will
forfeit your right to taking a make-up exam. Finally, please note the exam dates for this course. I
do not give exams early. If you are planning to leave campus before Exam #3 is given to the
rest of the class, you will either have to rearrange your schedule or take a 0 on that test.

Resubmission of Work Originally Done for Other Courses
All written work must be original to this course. That is, you may not submit a paper that you
originally wrote to submit to another course. If you do so, you will receive a 0 for the
assignment.

Grading Scale
Your final grade in this course will appear on your transcript as a straight letter grade, without a
“+” or a “-.” However, individual assignments will be scored as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-96</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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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 assign a “0” for the assignment, possibly failing you for
the course, and report you to the Office of Academic Integrity 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 by citing your source—you
may not pass them off as your own. (In other words, DO NOT copy passages from internet
sources and paste them into your paper!) In addition, if you accept so much assistance on a
project that the work is no longer substantially your own, you have cheated. Regarding 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. The UNT policy on academic integrity may be viewed at:
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 16.001, at https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/16.001_DisabilityAccommodationStudents_2011.pdf, and by visiting the ODA in Room 167 of Sage Hall. 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 for further information.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress
Please be advised of the following university policy: A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility. If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit “http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements” for more information about financial aid
Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

Course Schedule

01/15: Introductions; course overview.

Part I—The Fundamentals of Art

01/17: Important First Questions, followed by 2-D Art: Line, Shape, and the Principles of Contrast; reading—Gateways to Art (hereafter referred to as GTA), pp. 42-60.

01/22: 3-D Art: Form, Volume, Mass, and Texture; reading—GTA, pp. 61-75.

01/24: Implied Depth: Value and Space; reading—GTA, pp. 76-94; demonstration of how to take on-line quizzes; On-Line Discussion Session #1 (Discussion Links Become Available at 3:20 pm).

01/29: Color, Time, and Motion; reading—GTA, pp. 95-124; On-Line Quiz #1 due by 2:00 pm.

01/31: Unity, Variety, and Balance, followed by Scale and Proportion; reading—GTA, pp. 125-149; exam review sheet distributed; On-Line Discussion Session #1 (Original Posts Must Be Submitted by 2:00 pm).

02/05: Emphasis, Focal Point, Pattern, and Rhythm; reading—GTA, pp. 150-169; On-Line Discussion Session #1 (Responses to Classmates Must Be Submitted by 2:00 pm).

02/07: Content and Analysis; reading—GTA, pp. 170-189; On-Line Quiz #2 due by 2:00 pm.

02/12: Exam #1.

02/14: Movie Day! Screening of Basquiat (1996).

Part II—Media and Processes

02/19: A primer on formal interpretation, followed by Drawing and Painting; reading—GTA, pp. 190-225; Formal Interpretation Essay assigned.

02/21: Printmaking; reading—GTA, pp. 226-241; On-Line Discussion Session #2 (Discussion Links Become Available at 3:20 pm).

02/26: Printmaking (cont.), followed by a primer on academic writing and a demonstration of how to use Turnitin; On-Line Discussion Session #2 (Original Posts Must Be Submitted by 2:00 pm)
02/28: Sculpture; reading—*GTA*, pp. 242-258; **On-Line Discussion Session #2 (Responses to Classmates Must Be Submitted by 2:00 pm).**

03/01: Class does not meet, but **Formal Interpretation Essay due (on-line submission, by 5:00 pm).**

03/05: Architecture; reading—*GTA*, pp. 259-284; **On-Line Quiz #3 due by 2:00 pm; Museum Visit Essay assigned.**

03/07: Class does not meet; course release day, in consideration of Museum Visit Essay assignment.

03/12: Spring Break! (Class does not meet.)

03/14: Spring Break! (Class does not meet.)

03/19: Craft and Visual Communication Design; reading—*GTA*, pp. 285-314; **exam review sheet distributed.**

03/21: Photography, followed by Alternative Media and Processes; reading—*GTA*, pp. 315-333, 350-361; **On-Line Quiz #4 due by 2:00 pm.**

03/26: **Exam #2.**

**Part III—History and Contexts**


03/30: Free bus ride to the Fort Worth Arts District, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; attendance is optional.

04/02: The Prehistoric and Ancient Mediterranean (cont.).

04/04: Art of the Middle Ages; reading—*GTA*, pp. 390-409; **On-Line Quiz #5 due by 2:00 pm; On-Line Discussion Session #3 (Discussion Links Become Available at 3:20 pm).**

04/05: Class does not meet, but **Museum Visit Paper due (on-line submission, by 5:00 pm).**

04/09: Art of Renaissance and Baroque Europe; reading—*GTA*, pp. 460-485; **On-Line Discussion Session #3 (Original Posts Must Be Submitted by 2:00 pm).**

04/11: Art of Renaissance and Baroque Europe (cont.); **On-Line Discussion Session #3 (Responses to Classmates Must Be Submitted by 2:00 pm).**

04/16: Art of Europe and America, 1700-1865; reading—*GTA*, pp. 486-500; **On-Line Quiz #6 due by 2:00 pm.**
04/18: Modernism; reading—*GTA*, pp. 501-523.

04/23: Modernism (cont.).

04/25: Late Modern and Early Contemporary Art; reading—*GTA*, pp. 524-545; exam review sheet distributed.

04/30: Late 20th Century and Art of the Present Day; reading—*GTA*, pp. 546-577; On-Line Quiz #7 due by 2:00 pm.

05/02: Pre-Finals Day—informal discussion about contemporary artistic practice, interspersed with video material (attendance is optional; this material will not be covered on the exam).

05/09 (Thursday): Final Exam, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, in Sage 116.

*The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at his discretion, with or without notice.*
ART 1200-001:
Art Appreciation

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 “0” 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 a “0” 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.

______________________________________________________________________________
Signature

_________________________________________  ____________________________
Printed name  Date

_____________________________________________________________
Student ID Number or EUID

Note: The return of this syllabus agreement is required for continued enrollment in the course. Students who return a signed agreement without being issued a reminder will receive credit for a participation grade. If I have to remind you to return this form (by issuing e-mails, etc.), you will not receive credit for a participation grade.