

**ART 1301.002**  
**ART APPRECIATION FOR NON-ART MAJORS**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 pm-3:50 pm**  
**Classroom: ART 280**

**Professor:** Olumuyiwa Oyedare, called Olu by most people (he/him/his).

**Office:** Available Room **Student drop-in hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 pm-4:00 pm, or inbox me for an appointment.

**Communicating with me:**

- **Please use the Canvas inbox to email me.** Sign the email with your preferred first name (the name you'd like me to use when addressing you).
- I prefer you to call me Olu. I will attempt to respond to any email you send me within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.
- I usually do not respond to attendance emails unless you request my assistance accessing university resources.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course aims to cultivate students' ability to observe, interpret, and value artworks across cultures, time periods, and contexts, fostering visual literacy, critical thinking, and an enduring appreciation of art's relevance to personal and social experiences. The capstone would be a thorough historical overview and critical analysis of **Western art**, explicitly framed in relation to **non-Western cultures**. The emphasis is on exchange, influence, power, and shifting interpretations rather than treating Western art as an isolated tradition.

For a long time, art history presented Western art as a linear story of "progress," often marginalizing or excluding non-Western cultures. Contemporary scholarship challenges this view, emphasizing **cross-cultural exchange, colonial entanglement, and global modernity**. By the end of the course, Students will have cultivated visual literacy and critical thinking skills through the practice of fundamental visual analysis and historical interpretation. They will be prepared to examine artworks and comprehend their cultural, religious, social, and historical contexts, thereby enhancing their appreciation of art's significance in everyday life and its interconnectedness through cross-cultural exchange.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that may be personally challenging or offensive to some students, such as explicit sexual content, violence, or blasphemy. The College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise. 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 uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek an alternative course. You can also contact me privately at any time to discuss your concerns.

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

None

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Explain the creative process underpinning the production of works of art
- Describe the role of the viewer in perceiving and understanding a work of art
- Analyze works of art for visual elements and principles of design
- Analyze work of art for two- or three-dimensional medium
- Recognize forms, themes, and functions of works of art from specific historical moments and geographic locations
- Collaborate to apply social responsibility to solve a problem from the history of art
- Communicate critical thinking applied to works of art
- Emphasize cross-cultural exchange, colonial entanglement, and global modernity
- Know better than treating Western art as an isolated tradition

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS.**

- **REQUIRED TEXT:**
- *Living with Art*, 13e, Mark Getlein, with Connect access. Purchase the Connect Access Code at the UNT bookstore or from the publisher link on Canvas. Do not rent the eBook alone. This will not give you access to the quizzes. You must have Connect Access.
- **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:**
- --A computer with Internet access and specifications described at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>.
- --A digital camera (smartphone camera is fine).
- **In class:** Bring a way to take notes. Laptops, tablets, and handwritten. **No phone use for notetaking, please.**
- **Out of class:** You need access to a computer with a reliable internet connection.

### **DELIVERY**

Course concepts and project structures will be delivered in person, in the classroom. This class will involve an **interactive and participatory experience**. Interactive and participatory teaching methods involve actively engaging students in the learning process, rather than passively receiving information. These approaches foster a deeper

understanding, enhance engagement, and promote the development of critical thinking skills. The activities included will be group discussions, role-playing, and hands-on tasks.

### **WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS**

- Groups will post and present PowerPoint or PDF presentations of the assigned readings every week, while members of other groups will submit and ask thought-provoking questions based on each presentation. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations must be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. CST on Sundays, and all questions must be posted by the following Monday, not later than 11:59 p.m. CST. These weekly activities will involve describing and critically analyzing the assigned readings, as well as making connections to other materials, both inside and outside of class.

### **ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING**

#### ***Reading Quizzes 45% total (10 points each)***

Weekly chapter reading quizzes in each of the modules. Each quiz is worth 10 points. The reading quizzes are only found in the electronic textbook.

#### ***Weekly Discussion: 25% total***

Each module includes discussions on issues relating to art, social, and civic responsibility. Each module discussion is worth 10 points; participation is worth 5 points; and questions are worth 5 points.

#### ***UNT CORE Assignments: 20%***

This is a UNT Core class. Per UNT policy, it must assess four (4) categories: Developing Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility. This is where you apply the information you learned in the classroom and the textbook. At least one creative, museum, *or* essay assignment will be required. You will have an assignment that will meet any of these requirements—details to follow.

#### ***Class Attendance and Good Conduct: 10%***

Meaning being physically present in class and on time, preventing missed instruction, and developing responsibility; Good Conduct refers to behavior that respects the learning environment, other students, and staff, including following rules, showing consideration, participating positively, and avoiding disruptions. Together, they form essential student expectations for a positive and productive educational experience.

### **LATE WORK POLICY**

Late work is not accepted. This includes work that is just a few minutes late. Work well ahead of every deadline so that you do not miss turning your work in. I will not accept work emailed or otherwise submitted outside the designated portal.

## **LATE WORK/DEADLINE EXTENSIONS**

Deadline extensions and acceptance of late work will only be on special consideration grounds. I will not consider any requests that are made more than 24 hours after the deadline passes.

### **Grading scale:**

A: 100 - 90

B: 89 - 80

C: 79 - 70

D: 69 - 60

F: 59 or below

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

### **Attendance and active engagement are required to do well in the course.**

- Active engagement means quietly listening and taking notes during lectures (don't do other work), arriving on time, and staying until the end of class.
- No use of earbuds in the classroom.
- You're adults. Of course, it is ok to leave for short bathroom and wellness breaks when needed. It's a classroom, not a prison.

### **I take attendance for every class. Why?**

- To give you **extra credit**. Students who did not miss classes receive a 5-percentage point boost to their final grade.
- UNT often asks professors for enrollment reports. I'm required to send one after the first few weeks.

### **Do absences impact my grade?**

- There are no excused or unexcused absences. You don't need to send documentation. Please do NOT email me when you're missing class unless there's something critical I need to know, or you require assistance accessing university resources. I do not respond to attendance emails otherwise.
- **BUT** your grade will still be impacted. Missing a class means you've missed important information and a participation grade.
- **NOTE:** Missing five (5) or more classes indicates that something (personal or professional) is affecting your ability to attend class. Thus, after five (5) absences, I will submit an **"early alert"** through the UNT system. This is not punitive and does not impact your permanent record. It simply ensures that no student falls through the cracks and that anyone struggling is connected to the appropriate resources.

**It is your responsibility to make up for what you missed.** **Do not email me asking if you missed anything "important." I won't respond.**

- I will provide you with weekly topics for discussion either during class meetings or through Canvas under their respective modules. These will primarily be in topic units and images. I do not post my lecture notes.
- TIP: Find a study buddy. Make friends and exchange emails with someone sitting near you! Students are allowed to share notes. But, DO NOT ABUSE THE GENEROSITY OF OTHERS. Be respectful.
- If I hear that students are feeling unfairly pressured to provide notes for others or that students are selling their notes, I reserve the right to institute a much stricter attendance policy.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY:**

This class uses several technologies that you are required to work with. All comply with accessibility standards for visually and hearing-impaired students. Make sure that you have/can use each of these before starting the course:

- HTML pages that require an updated browser
- Online textbook on the McGraw-Hill website but accessed through our Canvas course
- Panopto videos with captions and transcripts (no special software or app needed)
- Microsoft Word for composing your assignments
- Digital camera, if you choose creative assignments
- Image-making program (like Adobe Photoshop), if you choose creative assignments

Technology problems should be referred to the appropriate helpdesk. For UNT systems, visit <https://it.unt.edu/help-desk-resources-students>, call (940) 565-2324, or email [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu). For the textbook and its quizzes, visit <https://www.mheducation.com/highered/support/connect.html>.

You may use laptops and tablets to take notes and reference course readings only. Do not message/text others, watch/listen to videos, visit non-course-related websites, or work on assignments for other courses during this class, else you forfeit your good conduct points. Phones must be put away or silenced. Please remove headphones and earbuds unless this is an approved ODA (Office of Disability Access) accommodation.

### **PRIVACY AND COURSE CONTENT**

You may not record class lectures or discussions unless you have documented academic accommodations with the Office of Disability Access (ODA). If this is the case, you must sign and submit UNT's Agreement Form for Recording

Lectures [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Office-of-Disability/Documents/PDFS/Agreement\\_Form\\_for\\_Recording\\_Lectures.pdf](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Office-of-Disability/Documents/PDFS/Agreement_Form_for_Recording_Lectures.pdf)

Do not use any course materials (including recordings) for purposes not directly related to this course.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Please discuss or confirm your accommodation with me during the first two weeks of class. You can meet me during my office hours or virtually by appointment.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations 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 the 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 before 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 <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## **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 inappropriate/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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

## **RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

Rules of engagement refer to the manner in which students are expected to interact with one another and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.

- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individuals’ experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussions, as tone can be challenging to interpret digitally.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Note that online documents can last forever, so think carefully before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

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## **ADDITIONAL UNT POLICIES**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, 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. Submitting work to this class that is found to violate UNT’s academic integrity policy will result in a failing grade in the class.

### **COURSE RISK FACTOR:**

According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category one (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.

### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND PROCEDURES:**

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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **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 based on 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](mailto: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](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or (940) 565-2759.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus as needed.