ART 1300
ART APPRECIATION
Class days: Tuesdays and Thursdays | August 18–December 1, 2026

Instructor: Sara Amirkhani - SaraAmirkhani@my.unt.edu

Office Hours: Virtual — please email me to schedule a meeting.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study the elements of art and composition through works from diverse cultures and periods, from prehistoric cave paintings to modern art.

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, it is not the college's practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course. You can also contact me privately at any time to discuss your concerns.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Identify the elements of art and explain how they shape a composition.
- Analyze and interpret artworks from different periods and cultures and support your interpretations with visual evidence.
- Develop and hone skills in critical thinking, communication, and social and personal responsibility.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- NO TEXTBOOK. All required readings are Smart History online articles or museum websites
- In class: Bring a way to take notes. Laptops, tablets, handwritten.
- Out of class: You need access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. Quizzes and readings are online. Click here for UNT Computer Lab locations/hours

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING

Weekly Discussion Postings: 20% total

- You're required to post brief weekly responses (about 50-75 words) on Canvas. They are due at the end of each week by Sunday, 11:59 p.m. CT. Describe something you found interesting in the lecture or connections to other materials inside or outside of class. You can also have fun with these. Make a meme, sketch something, etc.

Quizzes: 60% total (3 quizzes, 20% each)

- Instead of a midterm and final exam, you have 3 quizzes worth 100 points each. These are **non-cumulative** and based solely on material from my lectures.
- Format: short essay questions, open-note and taken remotely through Canvas. Quizzes are timed, so you still need to study in advance in order complete them within the time frame. They are "live" on Canvas during a 4 day window. Dates are listed on the course schedule below.

UNT CORE Assignment: 20%

- This is a UNT Core class. Per UNT policy, it must assess 4 categories: Developing Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility. You will have an assignment that will meet this requirement. Details to follow.

LATE WORK/DEADLINE EXTENSIONS

Deadline extensions and acceptance of late work are made on a case-by-case basis. I will not consider any requests that are made more than 24 hours after the deadline passes.

Weighted Grade Breakdown:
20% Quiz 1
20% Quiz 2
20% Quiz 3
20% UNT CORE Assignment
20% Weekly responses

Grading scale:
A: 100 - 89.5
B: 89.4 - 79.5
C: 79.4- 69.5
D: 69.4 - 59.5
F: 59.4 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.
- 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.

Do absences impact my grade?

- You are allowed a maximum of **3 absences**. If you are absent for more than 3 sessions, **points will be deducted from your grade**.
- There are no excused/unexcused absences. You do not need to send documentation. Do NOT email me when you're missing class unless there's something critical I need to know or need help accessing university resources. I do not respond to attendance emails otherwise.
- Missing class means you've missed important information you may need for a quiz.

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

- 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 students are selling their notes, I reserve the right to institute a much stricter attendance policy.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

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.

Phones must be put away. Please remove headphones unless this is an approved ODA (Office of Disability Access) accommodation.

Do not make audio or visual recordings of class unless you've received approval from the ODA.

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

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

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Please discuss/confirm your accommodations with me via email during the first 2 weeks of class.

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 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 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 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.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other 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 on the basis of 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 individual's 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 discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Schedule and readings are subject to change at instructor's discretion)

WEEK 1 | What Is Art?

Aug 18 and Aug 20

- What is art?
- Prehistoric cave paintings

WEEK 2 | Elements of Art

Aug 25 and Aug 27

- Line, shape, form, space, value, color, and texture
- Composition in art

WEEK 3 | Medieval Art

Sep 1 and Sep 3

- Art of the Middle Ages
- Byzantine mosaics and frescoes
- Romanesque art
- Gothic art

WEEK 4 | Early Renaissance Art

Sep 8 and Sep 10

- Florence and Early Renaissance art
- Giotto and the Arena Chapel
- Linear perspective
- Masaccio
- Death and salvation in Masaccio's Holy Trinity

WEEK 5 | Renaissance Art

Sep 15 and Sep 17

- Masaccio
- Donatello, David
- Sandro Botticelli, The Birth of Venus
- The dome of Florence Cathedral
- Comparing the Early and High Renaissance

Quiz 1 opens Thursday, Sep 17 and closes Sunday, Sep 20 at 11:59 p.m. CT.

WEEK 6 | High Renaissance

Sep 22 and Sep 24

- What is the High Renaissance?
- Leonardo da Vinci, Mona Lisa
- Michelangelo, David
- Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

- Michelangelo, The Creation of Adam

WEEK 7 | Late Renaissance and Mannerism

Sep 29 and Oct 1

- Raphael, The School of Athens
- Mannerism
- Parmigianino, Madonna of the Long Neck
- Jacopo Pontormo
- Mannerist portraits

WEEK 8 | Baroque Art

Oct 6 and Oct 8

- Caravaggio, The Calling of Saint Matthew
- Diego Velázquez, Las Meninas
- Paintings by Rembrandt

WEEK 9 | Rococo Art

Oct 13 and Oct 15

- Jean-Honoré Fragonard, The Swing
- Antoine Watteau
- François Boucher

WEEK 10 | Neoclassicism and Romanticism

Oct 20 and Oct 22

- Jacques-Louis David, Oath of the Horatii
- Jacques-Louis David, The Death of Socrates
- Jacques-Louis David, Napoleon Crossing the Alps
- Romanticism
- Paintings by Francisco Goya

Quiz 2 opens Thursday, Oct 22 and closes Sunday, Oct 25 at 11:59 p.m. CT.

WEEK 11 | Realism and Impressionism

Oct 27 and Oct 29

- Jean-François Millet
- Gustave Courbet
- Édouard Manet
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Claude Monet
- Edgar Degas

WEEK 12 | Post-Impressionism and Early Modern Art

Nov 3 and Nov 5

- Vincent van Gogh
- Georges Seurat
- Paul Cézanne
- Pablo Picasso and Cubism
- Henri Matisse

UNT Core Assignment due Thursday, Nov 5 at 11:59 p.m. CT.

WEEK 13 | Modern Art Recap and Middle Eastern Painting

Nov 10 and Nov 12

- Review of modern art
- Paintings from the Middle East

WEEK 14 | Art of Asia and Africa

Nov 17 and Nov 19

- Art of Asia

- Art of Africa

WEEK 15

Nov 24 and Nov 26 – No class (UNT Thanksgiving Break)

WEEK 16 | Art of the Americas and Review for Quiz

Dec 1 and Dec 3 (Quiz day)

- Art of America
- Review for Quiz

Quiz 3 opens Thursday, Dec 3 and closes Sunday, Dec 6 at 11:59 p.m. CT.

NO EXTENSIONS CAN BE GIVEN FOR QUIZ 3

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 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 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.