

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Department of Fine Arts

Art Appreciation  
Fall 2015

ART 1301-002, CRN 19019, 3 credits  
TR 9:30-10:45, Location TBA

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Office hours: MTWR 1:00-2:00 p.m., and by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course is an introductory course leading to an understanding of the Visual Arts. The course aims to answer the following questions:

*What is art? What does a work of art mean? What drives an artist to create? What makes art valuable? Why is art important?*

The course will examine the vocabulary utilized to describe art, discuss the processes utilized in making art, and survey the history of art through time. Students will come away with a greater appreciation of artists and their work and an enthusiasm for and an understanding of the visual arts that will enrich their lives.

The course will include lectures, demonstrations, slide presentations, note-taking, videos, on-line tours, discussions, and hands-on projects.

**Core Skill Objectives:**

The Core Skill Objectives facilitated by Art Appreciation are:

1. Teamwork
2. Communication
3. Critical thinking
4. Social responsibility
5. Personal responsibility

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Learning Outcomes facilitated by Art Appreciation are:

1. Students will become aware of the vocabulary utilized to discuss and describe art.
2. Students will be introduced to the elements, principals, theories, and styles of art.
3. Students will be introduced to the tools and techniques of making art.
4. Students will utilize these processes to create art.
5. Students will gain an awareness of art history in an abbreviated form.
6. Students will develop critical thinking skills through the examination of individual works of art.
7. Students will be able to synthesize, describe, and place works of into social and historical contexts.
8. Students will learn to develop and express ideas clearly, consider the effects of meaning and message, as well as other communication skills by working together in groups, creating presentations, and through hands-on projects.
9. Students will develop teamwork skills by working together in groups on assigned tasks.
10. Students will develop an appreciation for the visual arts, crafts, and the human imagination.

11. Students will develop personal and social responsibility through management of individual and group requirements within the course, as well through examples of personal and social justice inherent in the history of art throughout the world.

### **Course Objectives:**

The objectives of this course are:

- Develop an appreciation of art.
- Develop an appreciation for the making of art.
- Develop an appreciation of other cultures through art.
- Establish understanding of the role of art in society, culture, history, and place.
- Introduce the student to ways of looking at and understanding art from the point of view of artists and thinkers, learning the vocabulary, principles, and elements of art necessary to discuss art in a critical way.
- Identify images of art from different times and places.
- Develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills by looking at, interpreting, inferring, explaining, and ranking (or knowing when to not rank) different individual art works as well as different kinds of art.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Required Materials:**

- Notebook, preferably unlined so you can make drawings.
- Pencil or pen.
- Work clothes.

#### **Text:**

No text is required for this course. Reading materials will be researched or handed out.

#### **Policies:**

The emphasis of this course is on student learning and understanding, and developing skill relevant in art and art history. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss reading assignments. Regular class attendance is required; class roll will be taken each class period. Students are responsible for abiding by all published University rules and regulations (including attendance policies). The Sul Ross State University (SRSU) Student Handbook and other official SRSU publications outline specific regulations and requirements and will be followed by the student accordingly.

#### **Some Specific Rules for this Course:**

- Silence and put away cell phones, electronics, and headphones. Do not text during class.
- No disruptive behavior—no talking while others have the floor, no petty or base rudeness, no texting, smart-phoning, etc. This course involves discussion, so conversation is encourage. However, interruptions are not allowed. Continuous disruptive behavior will result in the student being dropped from the class.
- Be respectful at all times and be good listeners. Students will have various views which might not be shared by everyone, but argumentative behavior for its own sake and derisive comments will not be tolerated. Being respectful, thoughtful, and reflective is the key to communication.
- Student athletes must inform the professor prior to absences related to athletic department activities via SIGNED REQUEST/ABSENCE FORM from their coach. Additionally, student athletes must schedule with the professor when the work they miss is due.
- Non-sports related university-sanctioned activities that require your absence from the class must be accompanied by official and appropriate documentation to be excused.
- Coming to class under the influence of illicit and/or mind- or mood-altering substance without a prescription is prohibited, and the student may be dropped from the course with a failing grade.

#### **Class Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken during each class. Nine absences result in the student being dropped from the course with a grade of “F” as per university policy. Upon the 4th unexcused absence you will be dropped one letter grade. Upon the 6th unexcused absence you will be dropped another letter grade. And upon the 8th unexcused absence you will be dropped yet another letter grade. Attendance is crucial to your survival in this course.

If you must miss a class for a school-related activity, the absence must be discussed (and arrangements made regarding coursework) prior to the absence. The student can have an absence excused for extreme extenuating circumstances (debilitating illness or death of the student, a child of the student, or spouse of the student, or the death of a parent or guardian). The student must contact the professor by email or phone within 24 hours and provide appropriate documentation (types of appropriate documentation are at the discretion of the professor and the university). Other extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the professor.

Arriving to class on time is essential. Students are expected to attend the entire class time unless they have made prior arrangements with the professor in advance. Being late and/or leaving early three times will count as an unexcused absence.

If you fail to participate or are disruptive, the professor reserves the right to reduce your overall attendance and participation grade even if you have attended every class. The teacher has final discretion on whether you have participated fully.

### **Responses and Essays:**

The student’s ability to organize and compose their thoughts and ideas, and share them with others through a written record for posterity, is a crucial skill to have, both in the arts and in other avenues in life. Papers should exhibit concise reasoning, good organization, and proper formatting. The course uses MLA Style for scholarly writing, and only this form will be accepted. Bibliographies are required. Internet sources are accepted only with permission from the professor and on a case-by-case basis. Rough drafts will not be accepted as final submissions.

Papers need to be submitted in both hardcopy and electronic formats by the due date. File name formatting should follow the example below:

“2015fall\_artapprec\_essay1\_studentslastname.docx”

### **Late and Make-Up Work:**

Late work will not be accepted, except in rare situations involving an extreme extenuating circumstances (see above), the student should contact the professor before the due date or within 24 hours of the circumstance and provide the appropriate documentation (see above). Final exams and final research papers relate to university guidelines for submission of grades, cannot be extended. Often, other arrangements related to the students final grade may have to be made. The professor reserves the right to either reduce grades for lateness, or assign a zero.

Make-up work after assignment due dates or exam dates will not be given for unexcused absences or unacceptable work. Only in situations of extreme extenuating circumstances (see above), and related to documented scheduling conflicts associated with official SRSU athletic or scholastic obligations, will make-up work be considered. For situations of extreme extenuating circumstances, the student must contact the professor by email or phone within 24 hours after the exam date or paper due dates. In instances of official SRSU conflicts, approval must be given by the professor at least 24 hours prior to the assignment or exam date in question, and arrangements must be made about when the missed work is due. Appropriate documentation is at the discretion of the professor and the university.

### **Academic Integrity and Honesty:**

Real success comes from learning and doing the work yourself. Plagiarizing, cheating, or any other dishonest behavior on graded assignments, papers, or exams will not be tolerated. Rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonest

esty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook. A student found to be engaging in these activities will be penalized to the full extent of university policy. Students will be dropped from the course and/or receive a failing grade for cheating on quizzes or exams, or for plagiarizing on presentations, essays, or final research projects, and will be reported to the Office of the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and the Dean of Student Life.

Plagiarism is copying the work of others, in full or in part, without giving credit or attempting to pass others' work or research as their own without giving full credit. This includes, but is not limited to, copying direct quotes verbatim from written sources or the Internet without attribution, using others' exact wording or ideas or even paraphrasing large sections of outside material without giving credit.

It can be assumed that viewing or using any electronic device, book, paper, or piece of writing, including things found on the student's body or written somewhere else in the exam environment, is cheating.

### **Accommodations for Disabilities:**

SRSU supports equal educational opportunities for all persons. SRSU is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Qualifying students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. Phone 432-837-8203, email mschwartz@sulross.edu or mhinojos2@sulross.edu, mailing address Sul Ross State University, Box C-171, Alpine, TX 79832. Please also discuss whatever needs or requests you have with the professor.

### **Grading Criteria:**

Seven grade types comprise the evaluation portion of the course. Attendance will be logged each day, as well as positive participation. Good participation includes being involved in discussions and engaged in creative projects. Bad participation includes disruptive and distractive behavior. An cumulative grades compiled from attendance and participation records are compiled at the end of the semester. Assignments will be in the form of short answer handouts and completeness exercises (for example, whether or not an interesting article or image was brought to class on a certain day). Exams can include short answer, matching, and short essays, as well as other elements. Response essays will be evaluated with a rubric system that corresponds to a percentage grade.

Also, there will be opportunities to earn extra credit by attending art events. These include Chianti Weekend in Marfa (Oct. 9-11), and Alpine's Art Walk (Nov. 20-22). Approved documentation of attendance will be required.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Homework	10%
Attendance	10%
Participation	15%
Responses	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Assignments/Creative Projects	20%

### **Course Grading Scale:**

90-100%	A (Excellent)	
80-89%	B (Good)	
70-79%	C (Average)	
60-69%	D (Poor)	
59% and lower	F (Failure)	<b>*Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.</b>

**Course Calendar:**

Week 1: Aug. 25 and 27	Functions of Art: discussion
Week 2: Sept. 1 and 3	Elements and Principles of Art: discussion, group presentations, and homework
No class Labor Day: Mon. Sept. 7	
Week 3: Sept. 8 and 10	Prehistoric Art, <i>Cave of Forgotten Dreams</i> , Werner Herzog, part 1
Week 4: Sept. 15 and 17	<i>Cave of Forgotten Dreams</i> , Werner Herzog, part 2: discussion, response assignment; Western Art: discussion
Week 5: Sept. 22 and 24	Greek and Roman Art: discussion and homework
Week 6: Sept. 29 and Oct. 1	Renaissance Art: discussion; Non-Western Art: discussion and response
Week 7: Oct. 6 and 8	18th and 19th Century Art versus 20th Century Art: discussion and homework
Week 8: Oct. 13 and 15	Review and Midterm
Week 9: Oct. 20 and 22	<i>Exit through the Gift Shop</i> , Banksy: discuss and response
Week 10: Oct. 27 and 29	HANDS ON—Drawing (meeting location TBA): Perspective, Landscape, and the Human Figure
Week 11: Nov. 3 and 5	HANDS ON—Sculpture (meeting location TBA): Functions and forms
Week 12: Nov. 10 and 12	HANDS ON—Sculpture (meeting location TBA): Kinetic and social
Week 13: Nov. 17 and 19	HANDS ON—Printmaking and Photography (meeting and location TBA): Art, media, and marketing
Art Walk Fri. and Sat. Nov. 20-21	
Week 14: Nov. 24	Reflection discussion and response assignment
No class Thanksgiving: Wed. Nov. 25-Fri. Nov. 27	
Week 15: Dec. 1	Review
Dead Day: Thurs. Dec. 3	
Final: Tues., Dec. 8, 8:00-10:00 a.m.	Final Exam

\* Dates and subject matter are subject to change.