

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Fine Arts and Communication

Art Appreciation
Spring 2016

ART 1301-002, CRN 25441, 3 credits
TR 9:30-10:45, Warnock Science Building, Rm. 301

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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 artworks as well as different kinds of art.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Materials:

- Notebook for notes (unlined paper recommended 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, understanding, and developing skills 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. Please do not text in 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 encouraged. However, interruptions are not allowed. Continuous disruptive behavior will result in the student being dropped from the class.
- Be respectful and be good listeners at all times. 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.
- Student-athletes must inform the professor prior to absences related to athletic department activities via a 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 may be dropped one letter grade. Upon the 6th unexcused absence you may be dropped another letter grade. And upon the 8th unexcused absence you may 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.

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. In the case of medical problems or serious personal conflicts, excused absences will be granted, but only with prior approval and documentation (see other policies herein).

Again, it is the students’ obligation to contact the instructor prior to any absence to let them know when they cannot attend class and make prior arrangements for excused absences in advance.

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.

Late and Make-Up Work:

Late work will not be accepted. In rare situations involving an extreme extenuating circumstances, the student should contact the professor before the due date or within 24 hours of the circumstance and provide the appropriate documentation. In these circumstance, late work can be accepted. Certain other due dates, like final exams and term papers relate to university guidelines for submission of grades, cannot be extended and other arrangements related to the student’s 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 exam dates or paper due dates will not be given for unexcused absences or unacceptable work. Only in situations of extreme extenuating circumstances, 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 exam date or paper due date in question, and the student must schedule with the professor then when the work they miss 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 assignments, papers, or exams will not be tolerated. Rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, 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.

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 may 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.

Students will be dropped from the course and/or receive a failing grade for cheating on quizzes or exams, or for plagiarizing on projects, papers, or presentations, and will be reported to the Office of the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and the Dean of Student Life.

For more information, please see the SRSU's Student Handbook on academic honesty.

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.

Basic Writing Guidelines:

Writing papers is important component of the course. 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 be typo-free, exhibit concise reasoning, have good organization, and have proper formatting.

The course uses MLA Style for scholarly writing, and only this form will be accepted. Bibliographies are required. Papers need to be submitted in hardcopy by the due date.

Use of the vast majority of sources from the internet will not be allowed, including Wikipedia. The internet is a good source of basic information, but it is not always reliable. It is most useful as a tool to help you with basic information and ideas, and to find good sources, but not as a source itself to support arguments. Some Internet sources are acceptable only with permission from the professor and on a case-by-case basis.

Rough drafts will not be accepted as final submissions. The student is encouraged to submit preliminary work for review to the professor and/or help each other with editing. Students are also encouraged to use the writing resources available at the university (especially the ACE department). In some instances, preliminary work will be submitted and graded before the final due date to encourage steady progress. The goal is a good final product.

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, and "just sitting there" during group and creative projects. A cumulative grade is compiled from attendance and participation records at midterm and at the end of the semester. Assignments will be of summative and formative design, and can also include constructed response type prompts, discussion-related requirements, and participation-related requirements. Exams will be similar to assignments, but will mostly focus on summative assessment. 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. The professor will advise you concerning these events.

Course Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Response Essays	30%
Assignments/Creative Projects	30%

Course Grading Scale:

90-100%	A (Excellent)
80-89%	B (Good)
70-79%	C (Average)
60-69%	D (Poor)
59% and lower	F (Failure)

***Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.**

Course Calendar:

Week 1: Jan. 19 and 21	HANDS ON—Drawing with Perspective, Landscape, and the Human Figure: assignment
Week 2: Jan. 26 and 28	HANDS ON—Drawing with Perspective, Landscape, and the Human Figure: assignment
Week 3: Feb. 2 and 4	Functions of Art: discussion; Elements and Principles of Art: discussion and assignment
Week 4: Feb 9 and 11	Prehistoric Art; <i>Cave of Forgotten Dreams</i> , Werner Herzog, part 1
Week 5: Feb. 16 and 18	<i>Cave of Forgotten Dreams</i> , Werner Herzog, part 2: discussion and response essay
Week 6: Feb. 23 and 24	Ancient Art: discussion; Greek and Roman Art: discussion and assignment
Week 7: Mar. 1 and 3	Renaissance Art: discussion; Non-Western Art: discussion and response essay
Week 8: Mar. 8 and 10	18 th and 19 th Century Art versus Early Modernism: discussion and assignment
SPRING BREAK: Mar. 14-18	...
Week 9: Mar. 22 and 24	Contemporary Art: discussion and assignment; review
Week 10: Mar. 29 and 31	Midterm exam; <i>Exit through the Gift Shop</i> , Banksy, part 1: discussion
Week 11: Apr. 5 and 7	<i>Exit through the Gift Shop</i> , Banksy, part 2: discussion and response essay
Week 12: Apr. 12 and 14	HANDS ON—Functions and Forms of Sculpture (meeting location TBA): assignment
Week 13: Apr. 19 and 21	HANDS ON—The Kinetic and Social-Side of Sculpture (meeting location TBA): assignment
Week 14: Apr. 26 and 28	HANDS ON—The Art, Media, and Marketing of Printmaking and Photography (meeting location TBA): assignment
Week 15: May 3 (May 5—DEAD DAY)	Review
Final: Tues. May 10, 8:00-10:00	Final exam

* Dates and subject matter are subject to change.