

Sul Ross State University
Fine Arts Appreciation (FA 1315 CRN 25624)
Fall 2016

Professor 1

Name: Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, D.M.A.

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:00 p.m.; Wednesday 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Thursday 10:00-11:00 a.m.,
2:00-3:00 p.m.; Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Professor 2

Name: Avram Dumitrescu

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Professor 3

Name: Gregory Schwab

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Phone: (432) 386-3400

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

The survey course introduces students to selected fine arts areas. The course is taught in three blocks by three professors, one each for music, art, and theater. A specialist in each area will present information of a practical and historical nature, emphasizing aesthetic values and cultural contexts of various works of art.

Additionally, students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the fine arts. Students will learn a basic overview of the history, styles, and movements of the visual and performing arts, as well as methods, practices, and vocabulary for critiquing, evaluating, and interpreting the fine arts.

Core Skill Objectives:

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

1. Students will become aware of the vocabulary utilized to discuss and describe the fine arts. (*Knowledge*)
2. Students will be introduced to the elements, principals, theories, and styles of music, art, and theater. (*Knowledge*)
3. Students will be introduced to the tools and techniques of the fine arts. (*Knowledge*)
4. Students will gain an ability to critically engage the fine arts, developing critical

thinking skills through the examination of individual works in the fine arts and periods in the fine arts. (*Skills and Attitudes or dispositions*)

Major Assignments with Matched SLOs

- Projects will involve the use of comparative and evaluative skills to write about the arts in an organized and informed manner. (1,2,3,4)
- Essays, concert response papers, and analyses will draw upon students' critical thinking skills to critique aspects of the arts. (4)
- The arts advocacy letter will require the students to organize their thoughts and use reason and facts to explain the importance of music education in public schools. (1,2,4)
- Quizzes and assignments will evaluate the students' understanding and use of basic terminology to describe and identify the arts from the time periods and subjects covered. (1,2,3)

Required Materials

- Blackboard access

*There is no required text for this course. Reading materials will be handed out in class or online.

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken during each class. For the purpose of grading, a tardy will be counted as **one-third** of an absence. Students are expected to attend the entire class time unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor. Students who leave early or get up and leave class for any other reason will be counted as absent for that day. In the case of medical problems or serious personal conflicts, excused absences will be granted, but only with prior approval or documentation.

Documentation must be provided in the form of a note from a doctor or a medical professional, on in the case of a personal emergency, a letter from counseling services. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to let him/her know if the student cannot attend class and to make prior arrangements for excused absences.

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.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken during each class. **Nine absences result in you 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. **If you accumulate more than five (5) unexcused absences of any one block, you will automatically fail that block. This means that 33% of your overall grade in the course would be an "F."**

Your grade is determined by your attendance AND participation. 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. Bibliographies are required, as well as proper style and formatting.

The course uses MLA Style for scholarly writing, and only this form will be accepted. Footnotes and bibliographies may not be required but if you do use outside materials you must use footnotes and you MUST observe proper stylistic and formatting rules.

Use of the vast majority of sources from the internet will not be allowed, including Wikipedia and some Google references. While the Internet is a good source of basic information, it is not always reliable. It is most useful as a research tool to help you find solid sources, not as a source itself. 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 informally submit preliminary work for review or help each other with editing. 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.

Late Work and Make-Up Work

Late work will not be accepted. The only exceptions include a medical or personal emergency, in which case the student must arrange with the professor when late assignments are due.

In the event of a medical or personal emergency, the student must contact the professor before an assignment's due date or within 24 hours of the emergency and provide the appropriate documentation. What constitutes appropriate documentation is at the discretion of the professor and the university. Students will not be granted extensions for final exams/papers.

Electronic Devices

The use of cell phones, iPods, PDA's or any other electronic devices while in class is prohibited, except for the use of laptops and tablets to take notes. If students are found using their laptops or tablets to browse the Internet or play games, or any other activity not related to the class, laptop usage will be banned in class going forward.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Real success comes from learning and doing your own work. 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 presentations, essays, or research projects, and will be reported to the Office of the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and the Dean of Student Life.

Students with Disabilities

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu

Course Evaluation

There is a total of 600 points available for the entire course—each block is worth 200 points.

Music (out of 200 points)

Attendance/Discussion	40 points
Homework/Assignments	40 points
Advocacy Letter	30 points
Project	40 points
Concert Response Paper	50 points

Art (out of 200 points)

Attendance/Discussion	50 points
Art Project	50 points
Essay	50 points
Quizzes	50 points

Theater (out of 200 points)

Attendance/Discussion	25 points
Quizzes	75 points
Play Analyses	50 points
Research Project	50 points

Course Schedule

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.

Music Block

Week 1

8/22: Music as Identity

8/24: Elements of Music

8/26: Music as Soundtrack

Week 2

8/29: Music as Language

8/31: Music as Physiology

9/2: Music as Revolution: Contemporary Music

Week 3

9/5: **Labor Day, No class**

9/7: Music as Revolution: Jazz

9/9: **No class: The Importance of Music Education online assignment**

Week 4

9/12: Music as Culture: Mexico

9/14: Music as Culture: Hip Hop, Part I

9/16: Music as Culture: Hip Hop, Part II

Week 5

9/19: Popular Contemporary Techniques

9/21: Creative Release/Copyright Law

9/23: Projects and Advocacy Letters Due

Art Block

Week 6

9/26: Functions of Art. Elements of Design in Art. Essay – Write about an artwork.

9/28: Prehistoric Art

9/30: Documentary Cave of Forgotten Dreams. Essay due today.

Week 7

10/3: Documentary Cave of Forgotten Dreams

10/5: Ancient art, The Middle Ages and The Renaissance. Quiz #1

10/7: 18th and 19th Century Art.

Week 8

10/10: Modern and Contemporary Art

10/12: Modern and Contemporary Art II. Quiz #2

10/14: Digital art

Week 9

10/17: Cinema

10/19: Cinema II

10/21: Documentary Wasteland. Discussion questions. Choose a social issue you would like to address in a piece of art (photograph, drawing, sculpture, etc.)

Week 10

10/24: Documentary Wasteland.

10/26: Class discussion on Wasteland. Hand in art projects.

Theater Block

Week 10: Introduction

10/28: Introduction Activity; overview of theatre

10/31: The origins of Theatre

11/2: The Aristotlean Elements of Theatre

Week 11

11/4: Read *Antigone*

11/7: Read *Antigone*

11/9: Genres of Theatre

Week 12

11/11: Theatre Spaces

11/12-13 Performances of *Maricela de la Luz Lights the World*

11/14: The People of Theatre

11/16: Discussion of *Greater Tuna*; Theatre Design

Week 13

11/18: Theatre Design

11/18-20 Performances of *Maricela de la Luz Lights the World*

11/21: Small Group Theatre Research Project Workday

11/23: No class: Thanksgiving Break

11/28: Small Group Theatre Research Project Presentations: *Maricela* critique due
Week 14

11/30: Small Group Theatre Research Project Presentations

12/2: **Final Exam completed by 12:15 p.m.**