

Contemporary Art History

Art 3308

Sul Ross State University

Spring 2026

Schedule: Wednesday 6 pm to 8:50 pm

Location: This course is a course that will be delivered through BlackBoard and Collaborate.

Instructor: Sarah Krueger M.A.

Contact: Sarah.Krueger@sulross.edu (please put “Art 3308” in the subject heading)

Office Hours: Teams or Collaborate Meeting by appointment

Final Exam: May 6, 2026

Catalog Description:

A survey of painting, sculpture, architecture, and other arts from Post-Impressionist to Contemporary Period.

Course Overview: In this course we will be covering art from the Post-Impressionist movement called Fauvism to Contemporary art. We will be taking a global approach and examining how art develops in this period around the world with particular focus on major art movements and artists. We will be using selected essays from "Concepts of Modern Art: From Fauvism to Postmodernism" Edited by Nikos Stangos and additional readings to provide a framework for our classes.

Course Outcomes:

1. Articulate productive questions to guide the study of works of art using critical thinking.
2. Define and apply basic art historical terminology in describing and analyzing works practicing strong communication skills.
3. Recognize representative works and traditions from diverse global contexts from Post-Impressionism to Contemporary and explain their significance.

5. Explain the historical, social, and cultural circumstances which shaped the works we cover using critical thinking and communication.
6. Distinguish the stylistic characteristics of major periods in global art history and use these to contextualize unfamiliar works using critical thinking.
7. Evaluate how contemporary perspectives shape our understanding of the art of the past using critical thinking and communication.
8. Demonstrate foundational art historical skills that prepare students for advanced study.

Textbook and Readings: Our main textbook will be "Concepts of Modern Art: From Fauvism to Postmodernism" Edited by Nikos Stangos 3rd Edition, originally published 1994, reprinted 2006. I understand the department office has copies for students to borrow. There will also be additional instructor provided readings posted in Blackboard. The expectation is that students will read the material before the class and be prepared to discuss that material in class.

Attendance: 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. Plain and simple... 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. If you must miss a class for an emergency or illness, please contact me by email or phone as soon as possible and provide documentation (such as a doctor's note). Late work will not be accepted, unless you have contacted me about extenuating circumstances before the due date. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Arriving to class on time is essential. Being late three times will count as an unexcused absence. Students are expected to attend the entire class time unless they have made prior arrangements with me in advance. Students who leave early or get up and leave class for any other reason will be counted as absent for that day.

Rules and Expectations: There will be no "make-up" work allowed unless you can provide a doctor's note or other proof for an excused absence. It will be the student's responsibility to contact the professor and make the necessary arrangements.

Plagiarizing, cheating, or any other dishonest behavior in the classroom or on assignments 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.

The use of any AI assistance will not be allowed. Any assignments which are found to have used AI assistance will be given a zero and the student will be reported to the University.

SRSU Disability Services: Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations

to students with documented disabilities. Any student who because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. If an accommodation is needed, students must present their accommodation letter, obtained from Accessibility Services, as soon as possible. Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received. Accessibility Services is in Ferguson Hall room 112. You can make an appointment by calling Mary Schwartze Grisham at 432-837-8203.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to changes and updates.

Grading Overview and Breakdown:

Art Movement Paper:	15% (100 points)
Artist Paper:	15% (100 points)
Artwork Paper:	15% (100 points)
Participation/Discussion:	20% (140 points, 10 points per non-testing class period)
Midterm Exam:	15% (100 points)
Final Exam:	20% (150 points)

Grading Scale

100-90% equate to an A
89-80% equate to a B
79-70% equate to a C
69-60% equate to a D
59-50% or less receive an F

Grading: Most assignments will be graded within one to two weeks. There may be delays during busy points in the semester. Please note that final grades are not rounded, curved, or otherwise adjusted.

Details about our assignments and links to submit assignments will be available in Blackboard. Please note that only .docx (Word documents) or PDF files should be submitted. Links to Google Docs or One Drive and files types like .pages do not work with Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to follow directions and submit accessible files.

Tentative Course Calendar:

January 14: Introduction, discussion of assignments, overview of art history leading up to our course.

January 21: Textbook-Fauvism, p. 11-29, additional materials in Blackboard.

January 28: Textbook-Expressionism, p. 30-49, additional materials in Blackboard.

February 4: Textbook-Cubism, p. 11-29, additional materials in Blackboard. Art Movement Paper due 2/4 by 11:59 pm.

February 11: Textbook-Futurism, p. 97-105, Dada and Surrealism, p. 110-137, additional materials in Blackboard.

February 18: Additional materials in Blackboard.

February 25: Textbook-Suprematism and De Stijl p. 138-159, additional materials in Blackboard.

March 4: Midterm Exam

Spring Break: March 9-13th No Class

March 18: Textbook-Abstract Expressionism p. 169-211, additional materials in Blackboard.

March 25: Textbook-Kinetic Art and Pop Art p. 212-238, additional materials in Blackboard. Artist Paper due 3/25 by 11:59 pm.

April 1: Textbook-Op Art, Minimalism, and Conceptual Art p. 239-270, additional materials in Blackboard.

April 8: Textbook-Post modernism and the Art of Identity p. 271-294, additional materials in Blackboard.

April 15: Additional materials in Blackboard.

April 22: Additional materials in Blackboard. Artwork Paper due 4/22 by 11:59 pm.

April 29: Additional materials in Blackboard.

May 6: Final Exam