

# Art Appreciation

## Syllabus

### COURSE DETAILS

**NO.** ART 1301:006  
**LEVEL** Undergraduate  
**PREREQ.** None  
**TERM** Fall 2025  
**TIMES** TTH, 8-9:15 am  
**ROOM** Classroom Hall 105

### INSTRUCTOR

Sarah Fox  
[sfox@tamusa.edu](mailto:sfox@tamusa.edu)  
Office Hours:  
Friday 10-1 or  
by Appointment

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will offer lectures, readings, discussions, activities, and projects aimed at providing students with a foundational introduction and deeper understanding of visual arts and the creative process. Students will explore various artists, formal elements, subject-specific terminology, as well as a diverse array of processes and materials that have shaped the evolution of art.

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the class students are able to:

- Enhance skills in analyzing, critically evaluating, and communicating ideas, arguments, and perspectives. (Critical Thinking)
- Acquire proficiency in essential art and art historical terms and concepts.
- Develop an understanding of diverse cultural approaches to artistic themes and socio-political ideologies. (Social Responsibility)
- Demonstrate proficiency in critically examining artworks and effectively communicating through visual and verbal channels. (Communication)
- Cultivate teamwork skills through collaborative projects and activities. (Teamwork)

### COURSE STRUCTURE

We will be covering 5 units over the course of the semester. Each Unit will include lectures, readings, writing responses, presentations, and projects.

Unit 1: Drawing  
Unit 2: Color  
Unit 3: Photography  
Unit 4: 3D  
Unit 5: Zine

### ASSESSMENTS

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 20% Unit 1 (200 pts)
- 20% Unit 2 (200 pts)
- 20% Unit 3 (200 pts)
- 20% Unit 4 (200 pts)
- 20% Unit 5 (200 pts)

### GRADING CRITERIA

- **Projects** are evaluated based on concept, formal qualities, and craftsmanship. Each week you will be assigned a Hands-on Exercise that will give tactile experience of the principles we've discussed in the lecture portion of the class. Late projects are penalized.
- **Art Analysis** will take place at the end of each Unit. You will be asked to write a 1 page analysis of a work of art. The papers will be graded on your ability to demonstrate your understanding of Art Elements and Principles and how they apply to the work of art described. I'm looking for vocabulary words and ideas used correctly. I don't care if your spelling or grammar is perfect, I'm looking to see you understand the ideas we have covered.

Final course grades are determined as follows:

- **A** = 100–90% (Outstanding work, perfect documentation, not only fills the requirements of the project, but pushes past expectations.)
- **B** = 89.99–80% (Good work meeting the minimum requirements. Student demonstrates an average understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts, and puts forth considerable effort. Strong work ethic, average documentation of work.)
- **C** = 79.99–70% (Average work not meeting the minimum requirements of the project. Adequate understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts. Underdeveloped technical skills and minimum innovation, poor documentation and effort.)
- **D** = 69.99–60% (Poor work. Requirements barely met. Student's work shows little understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts. Studio time is not used effectively and student puts forth little effort.)

- **F** = below 60% (Unacceptable work. Requirements for the course are not met; a majority of work has not been completed. Student's work shows minimal or no understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts; little or no regard shown for in-class and out-of-class assignments.)

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- **Scissors**
- **Exacto Knife**
- **Eraser**
- **Notebook for sketching, taking notes, and writing papers**

#### **COURSE POLICIES**

##### **EMAIL**

When contacting me through email make sure that you provide all the necessary information. Provide me with your **name, class/time, and the specific about name of the assignment** or material that you have questions about so that I can accurately answer your questions.

##### **ATTENDANCE**

###### **I TAKE ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY DURING THE FIRST 5 MINUTES OF CLASS.**

- You will be able to accrue 3 absences without penalty in this class. These absences will not alter due dates. Please talk with your classmates about missed work, or check on blackboard to keep up with any missed content.
- The 4th absence will lower your course grade one full letter grade. Each additional absence will also lower your course grade by one full letter grade.
- Students who accumulate 7 or more absences are strongly advised to drop this course.
- Arriving late 3 times or leaving class early 3 times counts as an absence. If you are late, check in with me to make sure your attendance is recorded.
- Arriving to class unprepared is considered as absent.
- Working on other class materials or not actively participating is considered an absence.
- Attendance is calculated for each day of class meetings. Students enrolling after the first class day are counted absent for the days missed prior to enrollment.

##### **LATE WORK POLICY**

Assignments will be **due at the start of class** on their specified due date. Every class day it is late is an additional -10 points. If its due on Tuesday, and you turn it in on Thursday, the highest grade you can receive is a 190, if you turn it in the next Tuesday it is a 180, etc.

##### **CONTENT WARNING**

There will be depictions of nudity in some of the art we cover this semester. From Leonardo DaVinci to contemporary art, nudity has been a part of the history of art since humans began to make images. If this is something that makes you uncomfortable please come see me.

##### **AI**

Do not use AI to generate your papers, or your presentation. Using AI in this way undermines your ability to develop critical thinking, writing and research skills that are essential for your success in this course, in school and in life. You may *only* use AI as a text editor to help find mistakes or help with sentence structure, citation or clarification. **DO NOT LET AI WRITE YOUR ART ANALYSES FOR YOU.** I can tell when papers are written using AI, there are programs that will catch it, and you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

## **BLACKBOARD**

I will use Blackboard to provide you with copies of the syllabus, calendar, and other course materials. This will also be where the most up-to-date grading information will be shared with you. Make sure you regularly check Blackboard for updates.

If you require technical support with your Blackboard account please contact Academic Technologies. Resources for Blackboard help can be found online at: [http://www.tamusa.edu/its/student\\_resources/BlackboardStudentHelp/BbStudentHelp.html](http://www.tamusa.edu/its/student_resources/BlackboardStudentHelp/BbStudentHelp.html)

## **Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

## **Academic Learning Center**

The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

## **Counseling/Mental Health Resources**

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and

updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here.

**Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.**

### **Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance**

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

### **Meeting Basic Needs:**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

## Course Calendar | FALL 2025 (Course Calendar is subject to change)

### Week 1 | 8/25: Intro and UNIT 1

#### Getting Started

##### Tuesday:

- Syllabus Introduction
- Printer Introduction

##### Thursday:

- Lecture on LINE, SPACE
- Line Collecting Collage Intro

### Week 2 | 9/1: UNIT 1

##### Tuesday:

- No Class (use this day to take and print your photos)

##### Thursday:

- Line Collecting Collage Workday

### Week 3 | 9/8: UNIT 1

##### Tuesday:

- Lecture on VALUE, TEXTURE
- Ink Drawing Intro

##### Thursday

- Ink Drawing: Workday

### Week 4 | 9/15: UNIT 1

##### Tuesday:

- Ink Drawing: Workday
- Unit 1: Art Analysis

##### Thursday:

- UNIT 1 DELIVERABLES DUE

### Week 5 | 9/22: UNIT 2

##### Tuesday:

- Lecture: COLOR, SHAPE
- Surrealist Collage Intro

##### Thursday:

- Collage: Workday

## **Week 6 | 9/29: UNIT 2**

### **Tuesday:**

- Lecture: FORM, EMPHASIS

### **Thursday:**

- Lecture: History of Color

## **Week 7 | 10/6: UNIT 2**

### **Tuesday:**

- Presentations

### **Thursday:**

- Presentations

## **Week 8 | 10/13: UNIT 2**

### **Tuesday:**

- Unit 2: Art Analysis

### **Thursday:**

- UNIT 2 DELIVERABLES DUE
- Lecture: BALANCE, CONTRAST
- Color Gel Photos Intro

## **Week 9 | 10/20: UNIT 3**

### **Tuesday:**

- Lecture: Photography & Camera Build Day

### **Thursday:**

- Camera Build Workday

## **Week 10 | 10/27: UNIT 3**

### **Tuesday:**

- Portrait Day

### **Thursday:**

- Unit 3: Art Analysis
- UNIT 3 DELIVERABLE DUE

## **Week 10 | 11/3: UNIT 4**

### **Tuesday:**

- Lecture: MOVEMENT, UNITY
- Mask Intro

### **Thursday:**

- Mask Workday

## **Week 11 | 11/10: UNIT 4**

### **Tuesday:**

- Lecture: SCALE/PROPORTION
- Mask Workday

### **Thursday:**

- Lecture: Environmental Art

## **Week 12 | 11/17: UNIT 4**

### **Tuesday:**

- Environmental Art Work Day

### **Thursday:**

- UNIT 4 Deliverable Due
- Unit 4: Art Analysis

## **Week 13 | 11/24: UNIT 5**

### **Tuesday:**

- Lecture: ZINES & NARRATIVE ART

### **Thursday:**

- Thanksgiving Break

## **Week 14 | 12/1: UNIT 5**

### **Tuesday:**

- Brainstorm/Story Board due

### **Thursday:**

- Zine making

## **Week 15 | 12/9: FINAL EXAM (Bring Zines for your fellow students)**

### **Tuesday:**

- UNIT 5 Deliverable Due (Zines for me and your fellow students)
- Unit 5: Art Analysis

## **Week 15 | 12/11: LAST DAY TO TURN IN LATE WORK**