

# SYLLABUS

# ART APPRECIATION

**Arts 1301.604**  
**Online Course Delivery**  
**Asynchronous Online Course**

**Professor:** Brittany Ham, MFA  
**Office Hours:** Classroom Hall 314I  
T/TH 3:15PM - 4:30PM  
F by prior appointment only  
**Email:** [bham@tamusa.edu](mailto:bham@tamusa.edu)

FALL 2025

**Department Offering the Course:**  
Arts & Humanities

**Pre-requisites: None**

**Materials Required:**

Gateways to Art 4th Edition  
by Debra J. DeWitte, Ralph M. Larmann, and M. Kathryn Shields  
ISBN: 978-0500845066

**Suggested Materials: none**

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME, BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL IF CHANGES OCCUR.**

## ABOUT THE COURSE:

**Course Description:**

This introduction to the visual arts is designed for the general student, as an exploration of purposes and processes in the visual arts including evaluation of selected works. This course presents a survey of the visual arts, including artistic media and techniques, and art history. Students will also explore visual principles and elements through hands-on activities.

**Professor Ham's Perspective:**

In Art Appreciation, we will be looking at the basic principles of design, medium, history, and context which animate contemporary and historic art. This will serve as an introduction to the art world and empower students to be critical viewers.

**Course Structure:**

We will be covering two Units.

Unit 1 is devoted to the elements and principles of design. This unit will help us develop a common vocabulary so that we

can effectively discuss art, and will show how artists across, time, location, and specialty have a common set of visual tools.

Unit 2 is focused on different artistic media such as painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpting, etc. In this unit we will look at the different technical means that artists have used to create artworks.

Each week you will earn two grades:

- A reading quiz grade.
- An art assignment grade.

In addition to the weekly assignments, you will be asked to go visit San Antonio art spaces three times throughout the course of the semester.

**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.

**Email Format:**

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

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

**Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:**

- Thought critically about the meaning

and impact of art in our world.

- Communicated our ideas clearly in your writing, verbal language, and artwork.
- Mobilized your individual strengths to work collaboratively as part of a team to accomplish a final project.
- Engaged with local, national, and global art and better understand new perspectives and practices of art.
- Visited several art venues in our local community.

### Core Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking: Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, inquiring analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
2. Communication Skills: Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Team Work: Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
4. Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

## ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS:

### Online Course Expectations

This class is an online asynchronous course, which means that students are tasked with the responsibility to self-motivate their progress in this course. The professor will maintain regular contact

with students throughout the semester to keep them up-to-date on the weekly expectations of course, but it is the responsibility of the students to find the time to complete their coursework.

Likewise, if student's find themselves struggling with assignments or general management of the class it is their responsibility to contact the professor for help or advice.

### Attendance Policy:

This course will run asynchronously, meaning that we will not meet at an assigned time. Instead, this course will be based in the completion of weekly work, and participation with the course content on Blackboard.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

### Reading Quizzes:

Each week you will be assigned reading in our textbook, Gateways to Art 4th Edition. You will then be quizzed on Blackboard over the material covered in the reading. The quiz must be completed on Sundays by 11:59PM. Reading Quizzes count for 25% of your final grade.

### 1 Hour Art Projects

In this class we'll be creating our own artworks inspired by our reading and by the work of a contemporary artist. Each week you will be assigned a recorded video lecture by or about an artist engaging with the weekly course content. After watching this video, you will put into practice the theory gained through assigned reading and artist examples to make your own work of art. These artworks will utilize common materials that you are likely to have around the house. You will share your creations with your classmates by posting photos of your art to discussion boards. 1

Hour Art Projects must be completed on Sundays by 11:59PM. 1 Hour Art Projects will count for 30% of your final grade.

### **Community Art & Discussion Boards:**

In weeks 3, 7, and 11 you'll be tasked with visiting local art venues. In week 3 you'll be choosing to visit either the San Antonio Museum of Art or the McNay Museum of Art. In week 7 you'll be choosing to visit Contemporary at Blue Star, Ruby City, or Artpace (be sure to book an appointment if needed). In week 11 you'll be choosing to visit a public artwork in San Antonio.

For each of these visits you'll create a discussion board post with a selfie at the venue, an image of an artwork, and a five sentence paragraph describing what you think the central thesis of the artwork is. You'll then be asked to comment on at least 3 of your classmates posts adding to or critiquing their analysis with at post that is at least 3 sentences in length. Community Art Discussion Boards will count for 20% of your final grade.

### **Visual Analysis Assignments:**

One large visual analysis assignment scheduled for the end of the semester will act as the final exam. This assignment is worth 100 points and has a clearly outlined rubric for how those points are achieved. This assignment is an opportunity to apply the terminology from your reading, the critical and contextual analysis from our lectures, and the multiple perspectives from our discussion boards. This is your chance to demonstrate what you've learned this semester. The VAA's will count for 20% of your final grade. The Draft Assignment that will be completed to prepare for the Finaal VAA will count for 5% of your final grade.

**Reading Quizzes: 25%**

**1 Hour Art Projects: 30%**

**Community Art Discussion Boards: 20%**

**Visual Analysis Assignment: 20%**

**Draft of Visual Analysis: 5%**

## **GRADING**

### **Grading Scale:**

A.....	100 - 90
B.....	89 - 80
C.....	79 - 70
D.....	69 - 60
F.....	59 and Below

### **Late Work Policy:**

Late work is not be accepted in this class unless the student has contacted the instructor to receive an extension prior to the assignments submission deadline. A one-class extension will be granted pending instructor approval. Late work will not be accepted beyond the one-class extension. You will only be granted an extension if you contact me via email with your request before the assignment's due date.

### **Extra Credit:**

Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by repeating the The Community Art Discussion Board Assignment. You can earn up to 5 bonus points for completing this extra credit and the assignment can be repeated as desired.

## **ORGANIZATIONS, ACCOMMODATIONS, RESOURCES, AND POLICIES:**

### **Art Club**

Art Club invites members to develop their individual art practices by expanding their interest in different art forms and experimenting with different art mediums. Anyone with any level of artistic experience can join, and we encourage

members to get out of their comfort zones and be inspired by other art club members and the San Antonio visual arts community.

The club can be contacted through JagSync: <https://jagsync.tamusa.edu/organization/art>

### **Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission**

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

### **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/student-counseling>

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.

**Military Affairs:**

Veterans and active-duty military per-



sonnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

**Religious Observances:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

**The Six-Drop Rule:**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

**Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions

involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu).

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ( [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student

Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

### **Pregnant/Parenting Students:**

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; re-scheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

### **Young Jaguars:**

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare who meet this

criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

### **Students' Rights and Responsibilities:**

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

#### *Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.

4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### *Students' Responsibilities*



1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.

2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.

3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.

5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/>

[university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf](https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf)) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

### **Important Dates: Fall 2025 Regular 16-Week Session**

August 25	First day of class
September 1	Labor Day Holiday
September 10	Census Date
November 14	Drop deadline with "W"
November 25	Withdrawl deadline
November 26	Study Day
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
December 4	Last day of classes
December 6-12	Final Exams
December 16	Commencement

### **The complete academic calendar is available online:**

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>