

Art Appreciation

FALL 2026: Syllabus

Arts 1301 Section 008, 3 Credit Hours

Professor: Megan Harrison, MFA

Email: mharrison@tamusa.edu

Class Meeting Times: Mon/ Wed 9:30am - 10:45am. Attendance in Mandatory

Office Hours: by appointment, email me to set up a time

Department Offering the Course: Arts & Humanities

Pre-requisites: None

Materials Required:

- Reliable access to the Internet
- Reliable access to a laptop or desktop computer

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.

Semester Course Structure:

- **8 Research, Discussions and Lecture Notes: 10 points each.** Students will participate in small group and classroom discussions based on readings, podcasts and artist videos that pertain to the role of art in society and the creative process. Students will be graded on notes and questionnaires connected to research assignments and class discussions
- **4 Quizzes: 20 points each.** Over the course of the semester there will be quizzes related to vocabulary and concepts. Quizzes will be given in class.
- **4 Experiential Learning Projects: 100 points each.** Students will complete hands on exercises to engage tactile learning and provide practical experience to connected to course content. These exercises will be supported by student research, and in-class lectures and technical demonstrations.
- **1 Visual Arts Analysis: 100 points.** Students will complete writing project that focusses on the visual analysis of an individual work of art. Students will be required to make an in-person visit to a local museum or gallery to complete the assignment.
- **1 Public Art Analysis: 100 points.** Students will complete writing project that focusses on the visual analysis of an actual public work of art. Students will be required to make an in-person visit to a local public artwork to complete the assignment.

*The specific number of each assignment type may change.

Blackboard:

- All course material will be delivered through blackboard.
- Most course assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. This includes submitting images of artworks completed in-class. In-class quizzes and lecture notes will be handed in physically.

To help the semester flow as smoothly as possible:

- Be sure you have regular and reliable access to the Internet.
- Submit work early in case there are technical difficulties.
- Have the contact number for IT in your phone so that you can contact them as soon as you experience any issue. Know their hours of operation.
- Send me an email if there are any issues with the course on blackboard so that I can correct them quickly for you and your fellow students.

Online IT help: <https://www.tamusa.edu/Information-Technology-Services/index.html>

IT Phone Number: (210) 784 – 4357

IT hours of operation

Monday through Friday: 8am - 8pm

Saturday: 8am - 12pm

Sunday: Closed

* This schedule changes on occasion. Check the IT website for most current hours*

Attendance Policy:

- Every absence will affect your final grade. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, except in very specific instances as supported by TAMUSA attendance policies.

You will be able to accrue 4 absences without penalty beyond the loss of attendance points.

- After 4 absences, each additional absence may drop your final grade by up to 5%.
- Students that have 7 or more absences are advised to drop this course to protect your GPA.
- You are only permitted a total of 6 drops without penalty in your undergraduate career. The 7th drop will be calculated as an F in your GPA. Be cautious about casually dropping classes.
- Arriving late or leaving class will affect your attendance score.
- Working on other class materials or not actively participating may be considered an absence.
- If you have multiple absences, missing assignments and are not responding to emails about your class standing, you may get dropped from the course for non-participation.

Late Work Policy:

- Time sensitive assignments, such as Notes, or work that require timely instructor feedback will not be accepted after the due date.
- For the first half of the semester, late projects will be accepted for partial credit any time before midterm as long as the student is demonstrating a continued effort. In the second half of the semester, projects will be accepted for partial credit at any time before our final class meeting (the last class before finals week), as long as the student is demonstrating a continued effort. *

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- NO EXTRA CREDIT - Complete the work that is assigned.
- *Continued effort is defined as ongoing communication with the instructor and evidence of work being completed. Students will lose points for work that is incomplete, does not address the requirements of the project or does not demonstrate skills and concepts presented in class whether or not the student was absent.

Grading:

- Grades are based on the level of student engagement, how well the student met the parameters of each assignment and how well the student was able to incorporate instructor feedback in the completion of their work.
- Take photographs of all artworks and creative exercises you complete for this course and submit to blackboard.
- Work that was generated or assisted by AI will receive a zero.

Grading Scale based on percentage of points earned:

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

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

1. Thought critically about the meaning and impact of art in our world.
2. Communicated ideas clearly in writing, verbal language, and artwork.
3. Mobilized individual strengths to work collaboratively as part of a team to accomplish a creative goal.
4. Engaged with the local, national, and global art to better understand diverse perspectives and practices of art.

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. **Teamwork:** 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 Dishonesty:

Students are expected to do their own course work. Simple cases of first offense cheating or plagiarism by an individual student may be handled by the instructor after consultation with the department chair. The student is usually confronted with the evidence in private and advised of the penalty to be assessed. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year. For more serious cases, such as those involving repeated offenses, conspiracy with other students or the theft and selling of examination questions, a report should be made by the instructor via the department chair and college dean to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the instructor may report any form of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Please review the Student Handbook for a complete description of the process.

AI Policy for Art Appreciation:

No Use of Generative AI Permitted.

Art Appreciation 1301 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity. Any assignment that is flagged for the use of AI will receive a zero.