

Art Appreciation Syllabus

ARTS1301.001

M/W 11:00am - 12:15pm, Classroom Hall 105

Course Information

Contact Information

Professor: Nathan Talamantez, MFA

Office Hours: Classroom Hall 314I M/W 12:20pm-1:30pm, F by prior appointment only

Email: ntalamantez@tamusa.edu

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: 978-050084506

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.

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. 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 name, class, section number, and the specific about name of the assignment or material that you have questions about so that I can accurately answer your questions.

Course Structure

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.

We will complete three lesson units this semester. Each lesson unit will last three weeks. In each unit you will complete the following tasks:

1. Complete assigned reading quizzes from the course textbook.
2. Participate in and complete an art project related to the unit's assigned reading.

At the end of the semester students will also complete two major assignments.

1. One assignment will be a short analysis and interpretation-based assignment.
2. The other will be a final creative project that tasks the student with generating their own work of art.

Course Outline

1. Unit One: 2D
 - a. Line
 - b. Shape
 - c. Contrast
 - d. Value
 - e. Space/Depth

- f. Perspective
- 2. Unit Two: 3D
 - a. Form
 - b. Volume
 - c. Mass
 - d. Texture
 - e. Scale Proportion
- 3. Unit Three: Photo
 - a. Pattern
 - b. Rhythm
 - c. Emphasis
 - d. Focal Point
- 4. Visual Analysis
 - a. Genres of Analysis
 - b. Hands-on Application of Visual Analysis
- 5. Final Creative Project
 - a. Creative Ideation
 - b. Hands-on Application of Creative Process

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 our ideas clearly in your writing, verbal language, and artwork.
3. Mobilized your individual strengths to work collaboratively as part of a team to accomplish a creative goal.
4. Engaged with the local, national, and global art and 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.

Course Expectations

Studio Behavior

This course is a hands-on art course, which means that students will spend a large amount of time working in the art studio. All students participating in arts courses are expected to help maintain the space.

This may include:

- cleaning the space
- rearranging the room
- picking up after oneself
- do not permanently alter or damage the classroom or its tools

Failure to treat the studio respectfully will result in disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy

- You will be able to accrue 4 absences without penalty in this class. These absences will not alter due dates, and reading quizzes cannot be made up.
- The 5th 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 absences will automatically fail the course and are encouraged to drop the class. Students that acquire 7 absences are no longer eligible to complete extra credit assignments. Extra credit cannot counteract a failure for reaching 7 absences.
- Be aware that 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 early may be considered an absence.
- Arriving to class unprepared may be considered as absent.

- Working on other class materials or not actively participating may be considered an absence.
- Attendance is calculated for each day of class meetings.
- You must sign in before the start of class to receive credit for your attendance.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted in this class unless the student has contacted the instructor to receive an extension prior to the assignment's 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.**

Grading

Reading Quizzes

You will be assigned reading in the 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 by 9AM each Tuesday. Reading Quizzes will count for 25% of your final grade.

Art Projects

Each unit you will be assigned an art project that will give tactile experience of the principles we've discussed in the lecture portion of the class. Each assignment will be outlined on an assignment sheet made available on Blackboard. Art projects will count for 30% of your final grade.

Visual Analysis Assignment

At the end of the semester students will complete a visual analysis assignment that asks them to utilize the information learned in the course to create an interpretation of a selected artwork. The Visual Analysis Assignment will count for 15% of your final grade.

Final Creative Project

Students will propose and execute a self-determined creative assignment that draws on the methods learned throughout the semester via the hands-on assignments. This project will correspond directly to the VAA assignment and will be explained in class.

The Final Creative Project will count for 30% of your final grade.

Grading Scale

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
F	59 and below

Extra Credit

Students have access to a community art visit based extra credit assignment upon request. Please note that extra credit cannot reverse an automatic failure in the event of 7 absences from class.

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>

A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity. University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

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 in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the website or email us at 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 academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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, calling (210) 784- 1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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. Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.

The [TELUS Student Support App](#) provides a variety of mental health resources to include 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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 the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#) on our [website](#). Download the [SafeZone App](#) 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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to

develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, 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 e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.

The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the **Student Services tab**. Click on **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center** to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real time with a tutor can schedule an **Online Appointment**. Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an **e-Tutoring appointment**. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing: writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

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 report for support](#). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel 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 or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety 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, based on 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. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university. If you have experienced any form of sex 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, 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 reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is 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; rescheduled 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 can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (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, 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.

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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#).

Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marting Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) as available on our website.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

No Use of Generative AI Permitted [Insert Course Number]

This 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

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