

SYLLABUS for Art Appreciation

Course Number

1301:003

Term

Spring 2026, Tuesday and Thursdays 9:30-10:45, in Classroom Hall Room 105

Instructor Information

Sarah Fox

Email at sfox@tamusa.edu

Office Hours

Classroom Hall 314Q

Tuesday 4:45-7:00 pm 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 can:

- 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 4 units over the course of the semester. Each Unit will include lectures, readings, writing responses, presentations, and projects.

Unit 1: Drawing

Unit 2: Color & Painting

Unit 3: 3D

Unit 4: Digital Art & Zines

Assessments

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 25% Unit 1 (250 pts)
- 25% Unit 2 (250 pts)
- 25% Unit 3 (250 pts)
- 25% Unit 4 (250 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; most of the 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

1 roll of masking tape

Black Pen

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. If you are late it is your responsibility to check in with me after the lecture.

- 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.

AI Policy

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.

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 accommodations 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.

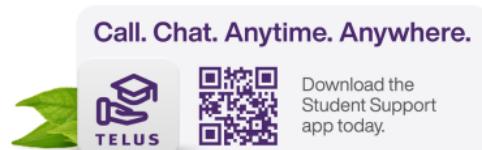
While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 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 including 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.



Download the
Student Support
app today.

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.

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, 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. 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 realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [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. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

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 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.

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 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 such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a 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; 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 student 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, 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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. – No Classes
January 20	First day of class
February 4	Census date
February 23-March 6	Midterm grading period
March 9-March 14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
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-May 12	Final exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online.

Course Calendar | Spring 2026 (Course Calendar is subject to change)

Week 1 | 1/19: Intro and UNIT 1

Tuesday:

- Syllabus Introduction
- Printer Introduction

Thursday:

- Lecture on LINE, SHAPE, and TEXTURE
- Photo Collecting Intro

Week 2 | 1/26: UNIT 1

Tuesday:

- Lecture on BALANCE & EMPHASIS
- Printing and Photo Collecting Workday

Thursday:

- Lecture on VALUE & CONTRAST
- Printing and Photo Collecting Workday

Week 3 | 2/2: UNIT 1

Tuesday:

- Collage and Gridding Workday

Thursday

- No Class (finish gridding and transferring your collage to Large Paper)

Week 4 | 2/9: UNIT 1

Tuesday:

- Drawing Workday

Thursday:

- Drawing Workday

Week 5 | 2/16: UNIT 2

Tuesday:

- UNIT 1 Project Due
- UNIT 1 Art Analysis in Class

Thursday:

- Lecture on COLOR and COLOR RELATIONSHIPS

Week 6 | 2/23: UNIT 2

Tuesday:

- Watercolor Relationship Paintings Workday

Thursday:

- Lecture: PATTERN, RHYTHM

- Watercolor Project Introduction

Week 7 | 3/2: UNIT 2

Tuesday:

- Watercolor Project Workday

Thursday:

- Watercolor Project Workday

Week 8 | 3/9: UNIT 2: Spring Break

Tuesday:

- No School

Thursday:

- No School

Week 9 | 3/16: UNIT 2 & 3

Tuesday:

- UNIT 2 Project Due
- UNIT 2 Art Analysis Due

Thursday:

- Lecture on FORM, SCALE and PROPORTIONS

Week 10 | 3/23: UNIT 3

Tuesday:

- Mask Project Introduction

Thursday:

- Mask Project Sketching and Demos

Week 10 | 3/30: UNIT 3

Tuesday:

- Lecture on MOVEMENT, SPACE & PHOTOGRAPHY
- Mask Making Photo Ideas

Thursday:

- Mask Workday

Week 11 | 4/6: UNIT 3 & 4

Tuesday:

- UNIT 3 Project due (in person and photo on-line)
- UNIT 3 Art Analysis

Thursday:

- Lecture on UNITY & ZINES

Week 12 | 4/13: UNIT 4

Tuesday:

- Zine Demo Day Photopea

Thursday:

- Photopea Assignment

Week 13 | 4/20: UNIT 5

Tuesday:

- Brainstorm/Story Board due

Thursday:

- Zine Workday

Week 14 | 4/27: UNIT 5

Tuesday:

- Zine Workday

Thursday:

- Zine Printing Plan

Week 15| 5/7: FINAL EXAM (Bring Zines for your fellow students)

Thursday:

- UNIT 4 Deliverable Due (21 Zines for me and your fellow students)
- Unit 4 Critique & Share

Week 16 | 5/12: LAST DAY TO TURN IN LATE WORK (Alternate Finals Day)