

Art Appreciation

Spring 2026: Syllabus

Arts 1301 Section 004, 3 Credit Hours

Professor: Megan Harrison, MFA

Email: mharrison@tamusa.edu

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

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 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
- Textbook (free access through blackboard)

Gateways to Art 4th Edition by Debra, J. DeWitte, Ralph M. Larmann, and M.Katheryn Shields

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, techniques, art theory and history, and art's unique and evolving role in society. Students will also explore visual principles and elements, through hands-on activities and written assignments.

Semester Course Structure:

- **Research and Discussions: 20 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. Ahead of each discussion, students will submit notes base on assigned items through a Turnitin assignment.
- **Quizzes: 20 points each.** Over the course of the semester there will be six quizzes related to material in the textbook. Quizzes will be delivered through blackboard.
- **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.
- **Visual Arts Analysis: 100 points.** Students will complete writing project that focus 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.

Blackboard:

- All course material will be delivered through blackboard.
- All course work must be submitted through Blackboard. This includes submitting images of artworks completed in-class.

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:

- For the first half of the semester, projects will be accepted for full 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 full 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. *
- Time sensitive assignments, such as Notes, or work that require timely instructor feedback will not be accepted after the due date.
- 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.
- Only work that is submitted through Blackboard will be graded.
 - 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 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.

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.

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 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

