ART 1301  

Art Appreciation

Instructor  
Professor Debbie DeWitte

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Office Hours  
There are no in person office hours for this course. However, you may contact the professor via email and schedule a time to speak if necessary.

This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in creative arts.

Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to visual works of art from prehistoric times to today, and to the artists who made these masterpieces. It is also designed as an introduction to the ways of looking at works of art by utilizing techniques of visual analysis.

Artworks will be introduced not chronologically, but through various humanist themes which encompass cultures throughout the world. Students will learn that interpretations of artworks are multifaceted and design an exhibition on a major western artist as their final group project.

Required Text


For questions regarding getting the textbook, please contact shiva@uta.edu

Student Learning Outcomes

Throughout this semester, students will:

- Demonstrate the skills needed to read and critique a work of art using the elements and principles of art. Students will investigate the practices of art and its history, learning to think critically and to question the relationship between art and artist, as
well as that of patrons and the power of economical, political, and religious involvement in its development. In this capacity, creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information will all be addressed and the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making will be discussed.

- Students will be able to clearly communicate the concepts of art history, the development of artists and their various artistic practices, genres and styles, in both written and verbal capacities, while learning to develop and maintain an independent artistic voice and identity of their own. In this capacity, effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication will be gained and evaluated.

- Identify historical periods in which artworks were made.
- Recognize that a work of art reflects not only the ideas of the artist, but also the social and cultural context in which it was made.
- Distinguish the processes and materials used in making different kinds of artworks.
- Create two-three artworks to better understand the process of artmaking.
- Analyze how architectural spaces are designed for the activities and beliefs of human beings.
- Explicate how art has played a role in the student’s area of interest or specialty.

Students will engage in the art community and become aware of the multi-faceted world of art and all it has to offer through visits to local galleries and/or museums, in which specific assignments working directly with the artworks themselves, will play an integral part in their comprehension of their own personal role in the world of art and its history. In this capacity, intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities, shall support the student’s personal engagement and comprehension of the art.

- Students are highly encouraged to form study groups and to support each other throughout the course when compiling research for their museum papers. In this capacity, they will be asked to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

**Grading and Course Requirements**

Your assignments for this course add up to 100 percentage points as follows:

6 quizzes (drop the lowest) - 50%

6 art projects/assignments (5 points each) - 30%
6 discussions over art projects (3-4 points each) - 20%

**Signature Assignment:**
The one page **Exhibition Critique Paper** will be assigned and discussed allowing students enough time to choose, research, and visit one of several museum exhibition options, which exhibit artworks and/or artifacts covered in the course this semester. This assignment will be ungraded and used for course assessment purposes. Students will use the knowledge and skills they gain in class from lectures and readings to analyze and discuss the exhibition, both in terms of its art historical themes and the presentation and display techniques applied, as well as the overall production of the exhibition as an artwork itself. In doing so, they will make direct references to various art historical theories used in the coordination of an exhibition, use artistic terms and vocabulary that support their critique, as well as detail the cultural, political, and historical circumstances which support the exhibition’s art historical theme and its relevancy in today’s modern art market. This paper will develop the research and analytical skills needed to evaluate artifacts and artworks used in many professional art oriented communities, such as museums, galleries, and auction houses. It also will support the student’s ability to think critically, communicate their ideas and skills effectively in both verbal and written capacities, and underscore their comprehension of the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities, shall support the student’s personal engagement and comprehension of the art.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**
It is the student’s responsibility to stay on top of deadlines and check in with the class every day. Students must keep up with textbook reading and participate in discussions.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships ([http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao](http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao)).
**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains
active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

**Weekly guidance for this class is posted on the discussion board within Blackboard.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Course Schedule.**

Please see the individual calendar for your course, which is posted on Blackboard. Your readings, assignments, discussions, and quizzes are spread out evenly through the semester.

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Debra J. DeWitte*