



ARTS 1301: Intro to Visual Arts
Section 03 – CRN20076
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2018

Class Location: Online

Class Meeting Times: Online

Instructor: Edie Wells

Office: Art Building D, 117

Phone: 817-301-6497 (texts are okay)

Email: ecw009@shsu.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course will introduce the visual elements of art, their nature, functions and relationships in Painting, Sculpture and Architecture to the non-major.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the student will:

- Identify the elements and principles of design and works of art throughout history and across cultures.
- Identify contemporary and traditional media in the visual arts and explain basic design techniques.
- Visit museums & galleries to increase contemporary art exposure.
- Gain both critical thinking skills and writing skills demonstrating personal understanding of artistic principality and elements of design as it relates to art and design.
- Gain understanding of visual communication; its evolving function and purpose in society.
- Increase knowledge of art materials, processes used, formal and conceptual themes in art.
- Identify historical and contemporary art movements, periods and categories.

Prerequisites:

None. (Non-Majors only)

Credit Hours:

3 credit hours.

Textbook and Required Materials:

Understanding Art by Lois Fichner-Rathus. 2012; 9th or 10th edition; textbook only; CD/online access card not required.

Online Office Hours:

Email (<mailto:ecw009@shsu.edu>) is the best way to communicate with me and I will be checking my email several times during the day. Texts are also okay. **I will do my best to respond to your email within 24hrs.**

Grade Evaluation:

All grades will reflect the following scale: (A) 1050-900 points; (B) 899-800 points; (C) 799-700 points; (D) 699-600 points; (F) 590 points and below.

Points will be earned through the following assignments:

- 7 Discussion forums responses – 50 points each
- 4 Papers – 100 points each
- 3 Exams – 100 points each

Make-Up Policy

Assignments may be turned in early, but not late. Ample time will be given for all assignments and exams. Make up exams will not be given. Being unable to get online or having computer problems is not excusable. Please plan in advance and do not wait until the last minute to take the exams. The course calendar is prepared to give you a semester overview of all assignments and due dates.

Writing Assignments Guideline + Breakdown:

All of the writing assignments should be typed in size 12 Times New Roman font and double-spaced. **Please proof read your work.** Each assignment is worth 100 points and will be submitted through a TurnItIn link. Formatting should be

Writing Center

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington 111, is open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, and 2 - 7 p.m. on Sunday. Writing tutors will work with you at any stage of the writing process (brainstorming, generating a draft, organizing a draft, or revising a draft) for any written assignment. The Writing Center operates on an appointment system, so please call (936) 294-3680 to schedule a session with a writing tutor. Skype sessions are available for distance students, and a tutor is available at the University Center. See website for more information: <http://www.shsu.edu/centers/academic-success-center/writing/index.html>

Paper One: Research an Artist: (worth 100 points)

- Using the list below, choose an artist to research.
- You will be writing a thoughtful, college level paper, involving research.
- Length of the paper needs to be a minimum 3 pages (typed) of **content excluding images**.
- Another page should contain two reproductions of the artist's artwork (that you focus on in the body of the text).
- Bibliography (at least THREE sources...you can use your textbook & online resources) MLA format is preferred. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- Using the list below, choose one artist to research/learn/write about:

Kara Walker
Roy DeCarava
Carrie Mae Weems
Elizabeth Catlett
Maya Lin
Kiki Smith

Chris Jordan
Donald Judd
Cai Guo-Qiang
Eva Hesse
Martin Puryear
Susan Rothenberg

Louise Buorgeouis
Agnes Martin
Romare Bearden
El Anatsui
James Surls
Cy Twombly

Frank Lloyd Wright
Isamu Noguchi
Sol Lewitt
Faith Ringgold
Mary Cassatt

Jesus Morales
Andy Goldsworthy
Cindy Sherman
Jacob Lawrence
Ana Mendieta

Dorothea Lange
Jackie Brookner
Jeff Koons
Merle L. Ukeles
Sally Mann

Address the following questions about your artist to get full credit:

- Personal Biography (Tell me the artist that you chose. Citizen to what country? Date born? Date Died? What kind of childhood did he/she experience? Poverty? Diversity issues? Education? Overall timeline.)
- Explain the ART in general (process, style, time period associated with, materials, has the work evolved over time? Did they sell a bunch of work in his/her lifetime? Themes? Content? Who did he/she look up to in the art world? What informs his/her artwork? Maybe quotes could be helpful here, what do other art types think about his/her work?)
- Explain by comparing and contrasting TWO artworks by this artist (list the title, date, subject, style of EACH work, choosing an earlier work and comparing/contrasting it to a later work in the artists' career could be a smart way to go, quotes might help here, explain the two artworks as if I have NEVER SEEN THEM.)
- Include TWO high quality images that you discuss (in color would be BEST) Please label them as best you can and either imbed them into your paper, or attach them at the end of your paper.
- Conclusion of the importance of this artist's work (What do you think? What do others think? How does this artist fit into the bigger art world? What have you learned? Would you consider this artist successful? What do other people think?...wrap it all up)

Paper Two: Research a group: (worth 100 points)

As you might have noticed, there is a lot happening in the art world. It is often hard to get a clear picture. Sometimes the focus is placed (in textbooks, art galleries) on groups of people that have traditionally been represented. There is so much exciting and relevant art happening NOW within a variety of people groups. I am inviting you to choose ONE of the underrepresented groups below to focus on:

Artists with Disabilities

Women Artists

Minority Artists (Artists traditionally underrepresented either because of race, color, ethnicity, social class, religious belief or educational background)

Craft Artists (Artists working in glass, fibers, quilting or any other craft field)

Native Art or Tribal Art (you can focus on either/ both historical and contemporary approaches)

Ceremonial Art (art created for a religious ceremony or practice)

Once you have chosen a group from the list above to focus on please do some ONLINE research on the topic. What is happening, going on, available within these groups as it relates to

art making? What kind of art are they making? Any artists stand out? Or perhaps galleries or museums that support contemporary artists from this group?

You are NOT asked to write a paper on your findings. Instead, I am asking that you CUT & PASTE links to interesting articles and websites that you find on the topic. Please provide at least FIVE links on your group of choice. Make sure that you clearly tell me what your group is. List the links (at least FIVE) and give me 3-5 sentences FOR EACH LINK on why this link (to an article or artists website) is informative and relevant in response to what this specific people group is doing NOW.

Paper Three: Critical Analysis: (worth 100 points)

This component involves you physically going to view art (in real life THIS SEMESTER) NOT ONLINE. There are many museums, galleries and art on display at various venues (coffee shops, community centers, public offices & libraries). A simple Google search will help you find something in your area that is happening. SHSU has an active Art community; with campus events often. We are lucky the Houston area is thriving with art spaces all over the place! Spend time looking online for something that you might want to view, get directions and GO! You will create a written response (minimum 500 words) to your visit by telling me the following things:

Paragraph One: Tell me about the overall show.

Describe the location, show, type of artwork present. Is it a group show featuring many artists, or a solo show focusing on one person's artwork? Be specific tell me the exact name of the venue, dates of the show, name(s) of the artists involved and the title of the show/exhibition. Describe how many works are in the show. Mainly paintings or are they all sculptures? How many pieces of artwork are in the show? What kind of space is the art shown in (traditional gallery or urban coffee shop) Again, be specific.

Paragraph Two: Focus on one artwork.

Choose one piece of art that you are interested in. Tell me the Artist name, title of work, material(s) used. Using the vocabulary you learned from lectures & the textbook, describe the formal elements of this one specific artwork. Describe in detail how it actually LOOKS. What process and material was used to make this work? I am looking for your ability to use the visual vocabulary that you have learned in class. Be specific.

Paragraph Three: Your Opinion.

Now, tell me why you chose this work of art to focus on. What drew you to this specific work? Why do you think the artist made this piece of art? What (in your opinion) is the meaning (content/message) behind this work of art? What level of skill do you think it took to create this work? Be as specific as you can. Be honest and tell me what you really think about the artwork. Could something be improved?

Paper Four: Art In My Home: (worth 100 points)

We have discussed the personal meanings of art, as well as our individual approach to viewing and interpreting art. Spend time looking thru your textbook. Choose ONE piece of art that you (given the opportunity) would like to OWN and live with on a daily basis in your home. This could be a painting, a piece of architecture, a sculpture...any kind of art. I am NOT asking what you would like to have to sell and make loads of money. Instead, I am asking what you would like to actually have in your home; to look at and experience every single day. Please take the time to really consider this question. I am asking your opinion, but you need to be able to explain/defend your view.

Here is what I am looking for:

- Tell me the exact page number that the artwork is found on. The artwork HAS TO BE IN OUR TEXTBOOK. NO EXCEPTIONS. This is part of the question/assignment.
- Tell me the Artist's name, title of work, date of work, materials used.
- Spend at least two paragraphs telling me WHY you respond to this specific work of art and WHY you would like to HAVE THIS IN YOUR HOME. Do you respond to the colors, or maybe the content, or the use of texture? Be specific. You can like something, but it is different than wanting to experience it everyday. Explain WHY you desire to have this specific work of art in your home.

Online Discussions:

There will be a total of 7 discussion questions, each worth 50 points. **Full credit will be awarded for each discussion that fulfills the following criteria:**

1. The post thoughtfully answers the question asked and is not off subject or inappropriate;
2. The initial post is at least **100 words** in length;
3. There is a thoughtful follow-up response to another student's comment that is at least **50 words** in length and on topic.

All discussions will only be open by 8am on Wednesdays and will close the following Sunday at midnight. Discussions #1-7 must be completed in order and on time.

Begin your discussion by clicking on "create thread". You can type your response directly in the box or cut and paste it after writing it in a different program. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK YOUR WORD COUNT!

To insert a photo, look at the toolbox above your discussion. On the bottom left row of tools, click the icon that looks like a jagged mountain with a sun above it. If you hover your mouse over the icon it says "insert/edit image". After you click on this icon, a box will open allowing you to browse your computer to find the image you would like to insert. Select your image and click "insert". PLEASE do this rather than attaching your image. It is much better to be able to see your image while reading your post. THANKS!

Online Exams:

There are three exams, which will be available online during specific dates (see the calendar).

Exam One covers chapters 1-4 in your textbook.

Exam Two covers chapters 5-8 in your textbook.

Exam Three covers chapters 9-12 in your textbook and Lecture 13. This is your FINAL EXAM.

Exam questions will be taken from online-posted lectures and textbook readings. Questions will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. Online exams will only be available during specific periods. No late work will be graded.

Make up Exams will NOT be given. Being unable to get online or having computer problems is NOT excusable. Please plan in advance and do not wait until the last minute to take the exams!

Syllabus Change:

While every effort has been made to prepare this syllabi and course schedule in final form, it will be the instructor's prerogative to make any changes as may be deemed necessary in order to meet the learning outcomes of the course. Students will be notified in writing of any change.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and thus impedes the mission of the university. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

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ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including

examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

USE OF PHONE & TEXT MESSAGING IN THE CLASSROOM

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please *turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins*. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

Defacing University property is prohibited by University policy. It is also a criminal offense. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities. Violations will be reported to University Police.

Students should not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, interior walls or floors of buildings, locker doors, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray.