

UNDERSTANDING ART (ART 102)

M W F 11:00 – 11: 50 AM (section 1) all classes in room NSH 106

Other classes _____

INSTRUCTOR: Gary Westford

OFFICE LOCATION: SSH 116A

OFFICE HOURS: Monday/ Wednesday – TBA _____

Thursday TBA _____

Or by appointment

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TEXT : Artforms, 10th. Edition by Duane Preble , Sarah Preble , Patrick Frank

Note: You may also use the 9TH edition

SUPPLIES: an inexpensive folder to keep documents in; supplies adequate for note taking , pens , pencils (2b for scantron exams) ; art supplies as noted for creative assignments. **Please bring text to all classes.**

Course Description

This class will examine the principle concerns of art and artists (from ancient to modern times) through the study of visual art forms and aesthetics .Class is designed to provide a student with the tools to look at , ENJOY , think about , and communicate ideas about the visual arts. Topics will include: purposes of art; the language of visual experience(elements/principles) ; subject / form/content; media and techniques; approaches to art (formal, critical, historical, analytical, interpretive).

The course will be a lecture format, supplemented with many audio-visual materials (slides, videos) . Opportunities will be provided on campus to examine original (and copies of) works of art. Students are encouraged to visit local art galleries and museums (a field trip may be scheduled during the quarter). Lectures, class material and the text will supplement each other .Attendance and Participation in class discussions including individual commentary and group discussion is required.

The focus in class will primarily be on Western Art and Culture .

Class requirements will include: a midterm and final examination, several writing assignments, a gallery art exhibit evaluation, and one individual creative project. The instructor reserves the right to edit, add, or change assignments / lessons in Art 102.

Goals of the Course

ART 102 / Understanding Art will afford students an opportunity to develop an increased knowledge, appreciation and understanding of works of art as visual records of the time and culture where they were produced , and as tangible evidence of the individual creative spirit .

Performance Based Learner Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to :

1. Respond orally and in writing to works of art.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the language of art
3. Describe works of art in terms of subject, form, content, purpose, medium, and technique .
4. Interpret works of art in relation to the society that produced them.
5. Articulate similarities and differences between works, periods or movements, and styles of art.
6. Use written source material in a coherent essay with correct citations

Grades / Evaluation

A point system will be used on all written assignments, tests, and individual and group projects*. Grades will be given on a standard percentage scale:

A = 90 to 100 %

B = 89 to 80 %

C = 79 to 70 %

D = 69 to 60 %

F = less than 60 %

NO INCOMPLETE WILL BE GIVEN IN THIS CLASS

Make-up exams are not given unless the instructor has been informed of the problem prior to the regularly scheduled test time. No shows on test day without prior approval will be lowered one grade (A to B). **MAKE-UP EXAMS MUST BE MADE UP WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE SCHEDULED EXAM. ALL OTHER PROJECTS MAY BE TURNED IN UP TO ONE WEEK LATE WITH A 50% POINT REDUCTION.**

Assignments:

There will both in class and out of class assignments . On all assigned work , evaluation will be on clarity of ideas , relevancy of thought to topic , craftsmanship , application of class information to ideas and application of resources .

*Please see handout for specific information on above assignments

Course Content (Tentative Schedule)

Note: You will know what to read by attending class and referring to appropriate topics/ chapters in the text. Additional reading may be assigned as deemed necessary by instructor.

- Week 1: The Nature of Art: Purposes, Perception , Aesthetics, the Creative Act
- Week 2: The Language of Visual Expression: Elements / Principles / Style
- Week 3: “ “
- Week 4: Looking at Art / Evaluation and Criticism / The Role of Aesthetics
- Week 5: Artists and Their Work /The Creative Project
- Week 6: Artists and Their Work / Mid- Term Exam
- Week 7: Media and Methods / Group and / or individual drawing project
- Week 8: The History of Art: a brief survey (Pre- History to Renaissance)
- Week 9: The History of Art: a brief survey (Renaissance to Post-Impressionism)
- Week 10: The History of Art: a brief survey (Modernism / Art of the 20th Century)
- Week 11: Finals Week (Exam # 2 / Other assignments as noted

ALL WORK DUE NO LATER THEN FRIDAY BEFORE FINALS WEEK

A Special Note to Students: This class will involve both “academic “and “ creative “ student work . For “creative “projects” NO GREAT TALENT IS ASSUMED OR NECESSARY. The creative spirit exists in all of us, and each of us brings a unique sensibility and perspective to class. Class may therefore be seen as an arena for contributions and participation by all class members, for the growth and development of ideas and new ways of looking and seeing. The instructor does not have all the answers .

Diversity Statement: We are in a college community enriched by the diversity of our students and staff. Each individual and group has the potential to contribute to our learning environment. Each has dignity .To diminish the dignity of one is to diminish the dignity of us all.

Statement of Special Needs: If you feel you may need an accommodation for any type of disability, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the quarter.

