

ART 1300— ART APPRECIATION



"The purpose of art is
washing the dust of
daily life off our souls."
—Pablo Picasso

ART 1300 — Art Appreciation

ONLINE INSTRUCTION / AUG 25 - DEC 4, 2025

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[Blackboard](#)

Communication Channels

As an online class, all lectures, readings and course work will be done independently on Blackboard. When you have questions about the class, the readings or the assignments, consider the following options:

- If you have trouble with Blackboard, email the helpdesk@utep.edu; Phone: 915-747-5257 or Chat through the website: <http://helpdesk.utep.edu>. or the BB technical support hotline (1-877-382-0491).
- Post all questions that are not about grades or personal matters to the General Questions forum in the Discussion Board. This way everyone can benefit from the discussion. I will check the Discussion Board every 24 hours.
- E-MAIL: If you have questions about grades or a personal matter please email me at cafoerster@utep.edu. I check my email once a day. Therefore, if you email me, I will respond within 24 hours time. On weekends, I will respond within 48 hours.
- If everything fails, and you need to reach me, call the UTEP Art Department at (915)747-5181 during business hours.

Introduction

Art 1300 is an introductory course to visual literacy. We will explore how the Visual Arts have been interpreted, valued, and the functions they have played in distinct societies through a variety of cultural contexts and historical periods from pre-modern to contemporary society. We will identify artistic styles, techniques, conceptual issues, and traditions related to visual art. Students will be introduced to a basic overview of art history, but the main objective will be to develop skills for discussion and active engagement with art.

Guidelines

Students will be required to actively participate on multiple levels. Each week the course material will be presented as online lectures supplemented with readings, links and short videos. Students will be required to participate on the Discussion Forum to demonstrate their comprehension of the material and earn class participation credit. Your learning and ultimate performance will depend on careful listening and reading of the lectures and texts, responding critically to them, and engaging with other students' ideas in the virtual classroom, on assignments, quizzes and tests.

Four Course Policies

1. General Questions

Post all general questions about the class materials, the readings or the assignments to the General Questions forum in Discussions. This way all students can benefit from the answers. On Monday through Friday, I will respond to questions starting at 2pm. On Saturday and Sunday, I will reply within 24-48 hours. Students are encouraged to respond to questions when they know the answers. You are always welcome to send me an email if you prefer.

2. Attendance

Attendance is essential to your success as an on-line student. You will be considered present if you demonstrate active participation in the class through weekly Discussion Boards, quizzes, tests and submitting the Art Review and Self-portrait assignments. On the contrary, you will be marked absent if you do not actively participate in these academic activities, and dropped from the course if you

miss more than 1 week of assignments without any communication to me.

3. Drop Policy

I am not able to drop you. Students may drop the class by October 31st without any penalty reflected on their transcript. **Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.

4. Late Work

I am flexible with deadlines during the first week of class. After that, no late work is accepted. However, I understand that life happens and often events occur beyond our control that impede our work. If you have a provable family emergency, illness with official documentation, or circumstance that prevents you from completing your work, I will extend any relevant deadlines to get you back on track.

Required Texts

- *Gateways to Art* by Debra J. DeWitte, Ralph M. Larmann and M. Kathryn Shields, 4th ed. ISBN: 500845069, 3rd ed. ISBN: 500-841150 or 2nd ed. ISBN: 500-29203-7 (There are many used copies of our textbook in circulation that are inexpensive. You may purchase a new copy and current edition from the UTEP Bookstore, or you may buy a used copy online. Beware of online pdf copies that may be incomplete.)
- **Supplementary readings, class lectures, videos and images will be provided online.



“Art should comfort the disturbed
and disturb the comfortable”
—Banksy



Final Grade Evaluation

1. Discussions 20%

The discussions are our main meeting places for communication and exchange of ideas. In summary, you will respond to four discussion boards, most will be with a response and 2 replies during the course. You will also post your Art Review and Self-Portrait Videos to the Discussion Board and they will be included in the Discussion Board grade. See complete guidelines posted under “About Art 104.”

2. Tests 30%

You will have 4 tests for this class, that cover the textbook readings for each module. You will have two attempts to take each test but only the highest score will count towards your grade. There is no final exam for this class.

3. Quizzes 20%

You will have 4 quizzes for this class, that cover the supplementary material in each module. You will only have one attempt to take each quiz.

4. Art Review 15%

This is a two part assignment. First, visit a Museum of Art in your area. Select a work from a temporary exhibition or the permanent collection to review. Choose a artwork that you respond to. In your review, write a description of the work and include your reaction to it using appropriate terminology and your knowledge of the visual elements and principles of art. Papers must be at least 650 words and you must attach proof that you went to an

art museum. Download the pdf description in Assignments for the full list of requirements. Second, record a short video of yourself in front of the art work if possible or inside the venue. In your video, please tell us where you are and what artwork you are reviewing. Tell us briefly why you chose this artwork. Please keep your videos very brief 60 seconds is enough. Post your video to the Art Review forum on the Discussion Board by Sunday, September 28. Post essays to the Art Review Assignment by Sunday, October 5.

5. Self Portrait 15%

This is a three part assignment. This creative project may be interpreted loosely but it must be created in any non-digital media. First, create a Self-portrait in any non-digital media or format that can be easily viewed on Canvas. Upload at least 3 images that show your work in progress from beginning, middle and end of you creating your Self-portrait. Second, write a 1-2 page creative statement that explains your self-portrait. Read the Self-portrait pdf in Assignments for a full list of instructions. Third, take a short video of yourself while creating your Self-portrait or near the end. Tell us your inspiration for how you created your Self-portrait. Please keep your videos very brief 60 seconds is enough. Post Self-portraits with your Artist Statement in the Assignments folder and post your video to the Self-portrait forum on the Discussion Board by Sunday, November 23.

Regular and Substantive Interaction

I look forward to working closely with you this semester, and you can expect me to play an active role in our class. I will post announcements every week, and provide detailed feedback on major assignments within one week of submission. I will also answer questions throughout the semester in the Q&A Discussion and via email, usually within 24 hours M-F. Please let me know when you need help—that's why I'm here!

Netiquette

1. Respect

Respect the rich and diverse identities, perspectives, and experiences of our class. Please help me develop this environment by honoring the diverse identities of your classmates and letting me know (via private message) if an assignment, comment, etc. makes you feel uncomfortable.

2. Participate

Participate by reading the posts of your classmates. Share your ideas to strengthen our discussion, and don't wait until the last minute to contribute. Encourage others to participate by responding to their ideas. Be involved, but do not dominate a discussion with too many posts.

3. Remember

Remember the human. Even though we may not be face to face, there is a real person behind each discussion post. Do not write something that you would not feel comfortable saying in an in-person class-

room setting. Discuss ideas, not people. In other words, do not attack classmates for expressing their opinions; instead, discuss your position on the ideas that have been presented. Be kind and understanding with your classmates to keep our environment positive and productive. Everything we do in Canvas is permanent, so please think very carefully about your tone before submitting a post. If you don't, that mistake might haunt you for the rest of the semester.

4. Help

Help others. We will be working together all semester, so let's make the best of it. If you can help a classmate with a question, please do! Your efforts will be appreciated.

5. Edit

Edit and proofread before posting. We have lots of posts to read, so please review and edit what you have written before posting.



“The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”
—Sylvia Plath

“I never paint dreams or nightmares. I paint my own reality.”
—Frida Kahlo



Schedule Description

Our class work will be divided into four modules, following the textbook format. Each module will cover 4 weeks of class. Module Four will cover only 3 weeks. Each week (except for test week) students will have lecture notes, videos, readings, websites, a discussion question or VoiceThread or larger assignment to work through in preparation for the exam at the end of each module.

You will have an Art Review assignment due weeks 5 and 6 (2/23 and 3/2), and a Self-Portrait assignment due week 13 (4/27).

Part I Weeks 1-4 (Aug 25–Sept 21)

- Topic: *Fundamentals of Formal Elements and Principles of Design*
- Read: Introduction and Part I
- View: Lecture Notes and Supplementary Materials for weeks 1-4
- Due: Profile photo and Discussion One (response only) by Monday, Aug 25
- Due: Discussion Two. Response by Thursday, Aug 28, and two replies by Sunday, Aug 31.
- Due: Discussion Three. Response by Thursday, Sept 4, and two replies by Sunday, Sept 7.
- Quiz: Complete Quiz 1 by Sunday of Week 3, Sept 14
- Test: Complete Test 1 by Sunday of Week 4, Sept 21

Part II Weeks 5-8 (Sept 22–Oct 19)

- Topic: *Media and Processes*
- Read: Part II
- View: Lecture Notes and Supplementary Materials for weeks 5-7
- Due: Art Review Video by Sunday of Week 5, Sept 28
- Due: Art Review Essay by Sunday of Week 6, Oct 5
- Quiz: Complete Quiz 2 by Sunday of Week 3, Oct 12
- Test: Complete Test 2 by Sunday of Week 8, Oct 19

Part III Weeks 9-12 ((Oct 20–Nov 16)

- Topic: *History and Context*
- Read: Part III
- View: Lecture Notes and Supplementary Materials for weeks 9-12
- Due: Discussion Four. Response by Thursday, Oct 23 and two replies by Sunday, Oct 26
- Do: Start planning your Self-Portrait assignment. There is no discussion this week.
- Quiz: Complete Quiz 3 by Sunday of Week 11, Nov 9
- Test: Complete Test 3 by Sunday of Week 12, Nov 16

Part IV Weeks 13-15 (Nov 17–Dec 4)

- Topic: *Diverse Themes in Art*
- Read: Part IV
- View: Lecture Notes and Supplementary Materials for weeks 13-15
- Due: Self-Portrait and Video due by Sunday, Nov 23
- Quiz: Complete Quiz 4 by Sunday of Week 14, Nov 30
- Test: Complete Test 4 by Thursday, Dec 4



“If I could say
it in words
there would
be no reason
to paint.”
—Edward
Hopper

University Policy Statements

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is not allowed for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

Accommodation Statement:

I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities. Please, e-mail me during the first week of class to discuss any special needs you might have. You will need to provide documentation through the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS).

Covid-19 Statement:

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Pregnancy and Pregnancy Related Statement:

Title IX is a federal law that requires schools that receive federal funds to provide reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant or have pregnancy-related conditions. This includes pregnancy, prenatal doctor appointments, childbirth, false pregnancy, miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions. It will be important to review each student's situation individually, as reasonable accommodations will be highly dependent on the requirements of individual courses. If you have questions related to student pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at cass@utep.edu or at 915-747-5148.