



Course Syllabus: ART 1413 - 102
Art Appreciation

Fain College of Fine Arts

Fall 2025

W 1:00 pm to 3:50 pm

Contact Information

Instructor: Ashley Gillanders

Office: C115A

Office hours: T/TH 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm & W 9:45 am to 12:45 pm

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Course Description

This course is designed to give an introduction to the world history of art and visual culture. We will focus on the "means" of art, the way artists use visual language and communication, as well as the history and social functions of art in a variety of cultures. This course has no prerequisites and satisfies the requirement for a Core class fulfillment for Creative Arts.

Course Objectives

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

1. Identify the function of art in human society and describe the value of art as a cultural endeavor.
2. Define basic art terms, processes, and media, and identify design principles and elements in a range of artworks.
3. Recognize and describe key works, periods, and styles in art history.
4. Employ electronic tools and resources to research subjects in art.
5. Apply critical looking and thinking tools in studying artworks firsthand at a cultural institution.
6. Produce critical writing that includes description, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of selected artworks.

Evaluation

Tests (5)	30
Assignments (3)	30
Discussions (6)	15
Paper (1)	25

Course Requirements

Attendance / Participation

It is vitally important that our classroom environment promote the respectful exchange of ideas, including being sensitive to the views and beliefs discussed during classroom and online discussions. Your success in this course will depend on your communication, consistent engagement, and active participation in all course activities. Success in this course requires that you adhere to the deadlines given as you complete assignments, discussions, and other course activities. Attendance is mandatory.

Lectures

Lectures are given within the classroom. Students are expected to also read the text for further understanding of lecture materials. Student discussion is encouraged as this will aid the use of vocabulary, concepts, and topics used within online discussion and assignments.

Tests

There will be five tests in this class based on slide information, lectures, and any other assigned materials. The tests consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and comparison essays based on visual prompts. These tests will take place within regular class hours without the assistance of notes, textbooks, or other materials. No make-up exams will be allowed without documentation from a doctor or academic authority. In this case, prior notice of any upcoming missed days is preferred.

Assignments

Three hands-on studio projects are assigned throughout the semester. As intro to studio techniques, demos are provided with further information and criteria are given in class.

D2L Discussions

Approximately every other week, students will type responses to topics posted on D2L. As graded discussions, it is expected to make initial comments and reply to other students in the class. Each posting will have specific criteria.

Paper

Details TBA later in the semester.

Work Ethic

Personal motivation and discipline are keys to a student's success in this course. These qualities are demonstrated to me by actions such as preparation for each class, thoughtful inquiry, and involvement in discussions. Students should expect to spend at least three hours per week on homework in addition to class time.

Required Materials

- Course Textbook: "A World of Art, 9th edition" by Henry M. Sayre, published by Pearson.
 - I recommend purchasing the ebook version, as it is significantly cheaper.

Course Schedule

Please note, the course schedule reflects expected class progress in the course subject matter and is considered tentative. It is subject to change in content and scope at the course Instructor's discretion.

Week / Date	In-Class Activities	Due Date (all assignments are due at the beginning of class)
Section 1: Art as a Visual Language (Ch. 1-2)		
Week 1 – Aug 27	- Syllabus, Introductions - Intro, Chapter 1	N/A
Week 2 – Sep 03	- Lecture: Chapter 2 - Introduce Assignment #1 - Studio time	- D2L Discussion #1
Section 2: The Elements & Principles of Art (Ch. 3-7)		
Week 3 – Sep 10	- Test #1 (Chapters 1 & 2) - Chapters 3, 4, & 5	N/A
Week 4 – Sep 17	- Chapters 6 & 7 - Introduce Assignment #2	- Assignment #1 - D2L Discussion #2
Section 3: The Fine Arts Media (Ch. 8-16)		
Week 5 – Sep 24	- Test #2 (Chapters 3-7) - Chapter 8 & 9	N/A
Week 6 – Oct 01	- Chapter 9 & 10	- Assignment #2 - D2L Discussion #3
Week 7 – Oct 08	- Chapter 11 & 12 - Final Paper Intro	N/A

Week 8 – Oct 15	- Chapters 12 & 13 - Introduce Assignment #3	- D2L Discussion #4
Week 9 – Oct 22	- Chapters 14, 15, & 16	N/A
Week 10 – Oct 29	NO CLASS	N/A
Section 4: The Visual Record (Ch. 17-21)		
Week 11 – Nov 05	- Test #3 (Chapters 8-16) - Chapters 17, 18 & 19	- Assignment #3 - D2L Discussion #5
Week 12 – Nov 12	- Chapters 20 & 21	- Paper proposals
Section 5: The Themes of Art (Ch. 22-27)		
Week 13 – Nov 19	- Test #4 (Chapters 7-21) - Chapters 22, 23, & 24	- D2L Discussion #6
Week 14 – Nov 26	- Chapter 25, 26, & 27	N/A
Week 15 – Dec 03	- Test #5 (Chapters 22-27)	- Final Paper

Grading

A = 90 –100%
 B = 80 – 89 %
 C = 70 – 79%
 D = 60 – 69%
 F = 59 % OR LESS

Classroom Conduct and Policies

- As a student at MSU Texas, you are expected to conduct yourself in a courteous and mature manner.
- Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor removing the disruptive student(s) from the class.
- You are expected to come to class prepared, having completed all readings, assignments, etc., and arriving with any required materials.
- Late assignments will NOT be accepted. All work is due on the assigned day.
- Help each other, as you will learn as much from each other as you will learn from your instructor. I will do my best to create a safe, fun environment where you feel excited about art!

- Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Tardiness is disruptive, so be on time.
- Active participation and involvement during class includes:
 - Giving your full attention to the instructor and your classmates
 - Having an open-minded outlook
 - Participating in exercises and assignments
- All work and writing must be done specifically for this class during this semester. Failure to do so will result in an "F."
- A grade of "Incomplete" is granted only with a written doctor's excuse or under emergency circumstances such as a death in the family.

Communication

I am always available to be reached by email but I ask that you are respectful and professional in your communication and don't use it as your first go-to for getting an answer to your question. Please refer to this helpful resource that outlines professional communication with your professor. Before you contact your professor ask yourself:

Have I looked on D2L, in the syllabus, or reached out to a fellow student for assistance?

If you have a private question, please contact me via email and I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. Please do not expect a response over the weekend.

Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

Cell phones must be silenced and put away completely out of sight and not looked at until the class is over. If at any point your cell phone is NOT put away and silenced, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the day. The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

This course emphasizes the development of each student's own skills in visual analysis, critical thinking, and written communication. To ensure the integrity of your work and your growth as a writer and thinker, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or other text-generating software) to complete assignments, discussion posts, or exams is strictly prohibited. All written work must be your own.

Submitting AI-generated writing will be considered academic dishonesty and will be addressed in accordance with university policies. If you are unsure whether a particular tool is acceptable to use, please ask me before submitting your work.

Attendance

Attendance in all classes is required, unless otherwise instructed. You are allowed two unexcused absences without it negatively affecting your grade. After two unexcused absences, Your final grade will be lowered by ½ letter grade (5%) for each class meeting you miss.

A tardy is arriving 10 minutes after the beginning of class. Three tardies will constitute an unexcused absence. Leaving class before dismissal will constitute an unexcused absence, as well as arriving at least 30 minutes after class has started.

If you have an unexcused absence or arrive to class late, it is not the responsibility of the instructor to let you know what you missed. It is up to you to ask a classmate.

Content Disclaimer

Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. The Fain College of Fine Arts is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college's practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2025-26](#)

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

College Policies [Student Handbook-2021-22](#)

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage.

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Student Privacy Statement

In accordance with Federal Privacy Laws a student's personal information is protected. As an instructor, it is unlawful for me to share your personal information (including grades) with anyone unless I have written consent. This means I will not be able to discuss your grades with parents. If you have questions about your grades or have forgotten the grading policy for the course, please come by during office hours.