



## **Course Syllabus**

### **ART 1413 - 201: Art Appreciation**

Fain College of Fine Arts  
Spring 2026  
W 1:00 pm to 3:50 pm  
Room: Fain 111

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Ashley Gillanders  
Office: C115A  
Office hours: T/TH 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (C115A)  
                  W 9:45 am - 12:45 pm (C104E)  
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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 (2)	20
D2L Discussions (5)	15
Paper (1)	25
Participation	10

### Tests (30%)

There will be five tests in this class based on slide information, lectures, and any other assigned materials. The tests consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. A study guide will be provided two weeks before the test. 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 (20%)

Two written assignments will be assigned over the course of the semester. Detailed instructions and evaluation criteria will be provided in class at the time each assignment is introduced.

### D2L Discussions (15%)

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

### Paper (25%)

Your final paper will be an argument-driven essay that analyzes artworks using course vocabulary. More details will be provided later in the semester.

### Participation & Lectures (10%)

*Participation:* Active participation in lectures and discussions is expected, as it supports your understanding of key vocabulary, concepts, and topics. Your success in this course depends on consistent engagement in all activities. I will call on individual students to ensure broad participation and preparedness. If you can respond based on the day's material, you're meeting expectations; repeated inability to do so will lower your participation grade.

*Lectures:* Lectures will be delivered in class. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to class, in order to deepen their understanding of lecture materials and prepare for inclass discussions. PDF copies of the slide lectures will be available on D2L after each class.

## Textbook

- 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 less expensive than purchasing a physical copy.<https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/world-of-art-a/P200000003059/9780137846108>

## Course Schedule

Please note that 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)
<b>Section 1: The Visual World (Ch. 1-2)</b>		
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 21	- Syllabus, Introductions - Lecture: Intro, Chapter 1	
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 28	- Lecture: Chapters 2 - Screening & Discussion - Introduce Assignment #1	- D2L Discussion #1
<b>Section 2: The Formal Elements &amp; Their Design (Ch. 3-7)</b>		
<b>Week 3</b> Feb 4	- Test #1 (Chapters 1 & 2) - Lecture: Chapters 3, 4, & 5	
<b>Week 4</b> Feb 11	- Lecture: Chapters 6 & 7	- D2L Discussion #2
<b>Section 3: The Fine Arts Media (Ch. 8-16)</b>		
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 18	- Test #2 (Chapters 3-7) - Lecture: Chapters 8, 9, & 10	- Assignment #1
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 25	- Lecture: Chapter 11 - Introduce Assignment #2 - Class visit to the Wichita Falls Museum of Art	
<b>Week 7</b> Mar 4	- Lecture: Chapters 12, 13, & 14	- D2L Discussion #3

<b>March 11 - spring break</b>		
<b>Week 8</b> Mar 18	<b>NO CLASS - Ashley at a conference</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> Mar 25	- Lecture: Chapters 15 & 16	- Assignment #2 - D2L Discussion #4
<b>Section 4: The Visual Record (Ch. 17-21)</b>		
<b>Week 10</b> Apr 1	- Test #3 (Chapters 8-16) - Lecture: Chapters 17 & 18 - Introduce Final Paper	
<b>Week 11</b> Apr 8	- Lecture: Chapters 19, 20, & 21	- D2L Discussion #5
<b>Week 12</b> Apr 15	- Individual Meetings to Discuss Final Paper Proposals	- Final Paper Proposals
<b>Section 5: The Themes of Art (Ch. 22-27)</b>		
<b>Week 13</b> Apr 22	- Test #4 (Chapters 17-21) - Lecture: Chapters 22 & 23	
<b>Week 14</b> Apr 29	- Lecture: Chapters 25, 26 & 27	
<b>Week 15</b> May 6	- Test #5 (Chapters 22-27, excluding Chapter 24)	- D2L Discussion #6 - Final Paper (Due May 8 @ 11:59 pm)

## Grading

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

## **Instructor Class 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.
- It is vitally important that our classroom environment promotes the respectful exchange of ideas, including being sensitive to the views and beliefs discussed during classroom and online discussions.
- 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!
- 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
- A grade of "Incomplete" is granted only with a written doctor's excuse or under emergency circumstances such as illness or a death in the family.

### Inclement Weather

In the event that the university closes due to inclement weather, our class will not shift to an online format. Any assessments, assignments, or deadlines that coincide with the closure dates will be adjusted as needed once campus reopens. I will communicate any changes or updates via D2L and email. Please monitor official university announcements during severe weather events.

### Communication

I am always available to be reached by email, but I expect that you are respectful and professional in your communication.

Before you contact me, please ask yourself: *Have I first 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, Laptop Computers, and Recording Devices

Cell phones must be silenced and put away completely out of sight and not looked at until class is over. If at any point your cell phone is not put away and silenced, you may 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, unless I explicitly direct their use for a class activity. Recording the class is prohibited.

Laptops/tablets: To support focus and discussion, I strongly recommend keeping laptops closed during lecture and conversation. You may use a laptop for note-taking or course tasks if it genuinely helps you, but please (1) sit near the back or side to minimize screen distraction for others, (2) turn off notifications and avoid non-class sites, and (3) close the device whenever we shift to group discussion or close looking. I may ask you to close a device if it's distracting. Students with documented accommodations are, of course, welcome to use approved devices.

### 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 late to class, 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.

## **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

## **Library Support**

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this Moffett Library webpage to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

## **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 Student Wellness Center, (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.

## **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

## **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

## **College Policies**

### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### 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 prohibit 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.

### Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).



### Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)