



## Course Syllabus: Art Appreciation 1413-X12

**Note: This is an Asynchronous class and will have online office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 – 12 noon.**

<https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/99230405114?pwd=mnwo9kNdmVvaznooX8CdzzcfuomNfT.1>  
Fall, 2025

### Contact Information:

**Instructor:** Ernest Nsimbe, Assistant Professor

**Office:** C107 Fain Fine Arts

**Office hours:** Tues: 10:00 am - 12 noon; Thur: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm; Fridays 11:00 am - noon and by appointment. **(Email Subject: ART 1413-X12)**

**Office phone:** (940) 397-2801

E-mail: [ernest.nsimbe@msutexas.edu](mailto:ernest.nsimbe@msutexas.edu)

### Syllabus Disclaimer

*The information in this syllabus is subject to change. Changes to the course syllabus will be provided in writing and announced via course-wide announcements.*

### Course Description

This course introduces the world history of art and visual culture. Emphasis will be placed on the "means" of art - how artists employ visual language and communication - and art's historical and social functions across diverse cultures. No prerequisites are required. This course fulfills the Creative Arts core requirement.

### Course Objective:

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

- Identify the functions of art in human society and explain its value as a cultural endeavor.
- Define basic art terms, processes, and media, and recognize design principles and elements in a variety of artworks.

- Recognize and describe key works, periods, and styles in art history.
- Use electronic tools and resources to research topics in art.
- Apply critical thinking and looking skills when studying artworks firsthand at cultural institutions.
- Produce critical writing that demonstrates description, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of selected artworks.

## Course Materials

During this class, we shall be using **Textbook & Instructional Materials (not required, but highly recommended)**

*A World of Art*, 8th edition. Henry M. Sayre, published by Pearson.

*Sayre, Henry M. A World of Art* (8th Edition). Pearson.

Students are required to register at the **Pearson website** to gain access to the textbook and additional online resources. Please ensure you use your course code or purchase the digital version directly through Pearson for the best experience.

### **Here is how to get ahold of the book**

#### **Student access options**

##### **Instant access**

Students can buy instant access using a credit card or PayPal.

##### **365 days Subscription**

**\$93.99 USD**

ISBN 9780136828228

##### **Access card**

Buy access card per student, per course.

##### **365 days Subscription**

**\$125.32 USD\***

Students can redeem an access code from a physical card purchased from the campus bookstore.

ISBN 9780134082349

##### **365 days Subscription**

**\$125.32 USD\***

Students can redeem an access code from a physical card purchased from the campus bookstore.

ISBN 9780136828488

**365 days Subscription**

**\$173.32 USD\***

Students can purchase the Revel Combo Card at the campus bookstore. The pack includes a Revel access code and a loose-leaf print reference delivered by mail.

ISBN 9780136828273

\*Bookstore pricing may vary

### **Temporary access**

Students can get free 14-day temporary access.

It's time to access Revel A World of Art, 9e, the course materials for.

When you're ready, join your course at:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/bcirbo>

If you need help, check out these Revel student resources:

<https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/support/>

Here's more information for your course section:

Course start date: Aug 26, 2025

Course end date: Dec 6, 2025

All slide materials will be recorded, presented, and then uploaded to D2L. It is the student's responsibility to ensure proper download of PDFs, as well as upload of assignments, discussion participation, and term papers. It is your responsibility to address any computer problems that might occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines.

Remember most of the assignments will be taken through your Pearson account and our midterm will be taken differently.

At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware:

- Computer with updated operating system (PC, Mac, etc)
- Updated Internet browsers (Chrome or Firefox)
- DSL or Cable Internet connection
- Adobe Reader or another pdf reader

- MS Office/MS Word or other text software for writing papers
- Cell phone camera
- Zoom account.

## Course Outline

1. Art as a Visual Language
  - The Visual World, chapters 1 – 2
  - The Elements and Principles of Art, chapters 3 – 7
2. Methods of Production
  - Traditional 2D Media, chapters 8 – 10
  - New Media and 3D Media, chapters 11 – 13
3. Art History and Content
  - Prehistoric to 1700, chapters 16 – 18
  - 1700 - Present, chapters 19 - 20

## Course Requirements:

### Participation & Engagement

It is vitally important that our online learning environment promotes the respectful exchange of ideas, including sensitivity to the views and beliefs of others. Your success in this course will depend on your communication, consistent engagement, and active participation in all online activities. Success requires you to adhere to the deadlines for assignments, discussions, and other coursework.

- **Participate during Video Lectures:** Students must watch live lectures and each week. These will provide essential context for readings, discussions, and assignments.
- **Turnitin:** By taking this course, you agree that all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review through Turnitin for the detection of plagiarism. Some documents may be included in the global Turnitin repository for future reviews. Please remove your name and any identifying information before submission.
- **Readings:** Students are expected to complete the textbook's assigned readings and video lectures. These provide further understanding of course topics.
- **Discussions (D2L):** Students will respond to discussion prompts posted on D2L every other week. You are expected to make an initial post and reply to at least one classmate. Each discussion will include specific grading criteria.

- **Assignments:** Three hands-on studio projects will be assigned throughout the semester. As introductions to studio techniques, demonstrations will be provided through online resources. Assignments will combine physical work with digital components for critique.
- **Tests:** There will be six tests in this class, based on videos, readings, and assigned materials. The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and comparison essays based on visual prompts. Tests will be taken online within set time windows. No make-up exams will be allowed without a doctor's or academic authority's documentation. Prior notice of upcoming conflicts is preferred.
- **Paper:** Students will select a work of art (museum, gallery, or public art) and write a visual and conceptual analysis. Students must also submit a photograph of themselves at the site. Prior approval of the chosen work/topic is required. Additional guidelines will be provided.
- **Work Ethic:** Personal motivation and discipline are key to success in an asynchronous course. These qualities are demonstrated through preparation, thoughtful responses, and active involvement in discussions and assignments. Students should expect to spend at least six hours per week on coursework, watching videos, and completing readings. Late work will be reduced in grade.

#### Learning Activities

- Watch lectures and or other media
- Read D2L instructions and any assigned readings.
- Participate in workshops or exercises.
- Participate in discussions. (group/ small groups, progress reviews, critiques)
- Execute assignments.

#### **Commitment:**

**Expected Workload:** The generally accepted ratio of outside-of-class study and preparation for college-level coursework is two to three times the amount of in-class contacts with your professor. Therefore, you should invest 3 - 6 hours per week outside of class to complete coursework successfully outside of class meetings.

**The Mac lab is available whenever scheduled classes are not in session.**

IF YOU ARE IN THE BUILDING AFTER CLASS HOURS, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOUR STUDENT ID AND PROOF OF ENROLLMENT IN CLASS IF AN OFFICER ASKS FOR IT. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM AND NEED ASSISTANCE, CALL THE CAMPUS POLICE AT 397-4239.

**Feedback:**

You will receive frequent feedback from your instructor and classmates throughout the course.

Regular opportunities for self-reflections / evaluations and discussions will also be provided to support your development.

**Work Submissions:**

All work must include digital submissions, which must be made via electronic file transfer (not email). The following are requirements for digital submissions. Failure to adhere to any of these will result in a project grade deduction.

If your document doesn't open wholly and accurately, it receives a zero. Your folders must be named in the following format: all files inside that folder must be named the same, with their various extensions as appropriate.

For example:

Art 1413-X12\_Lastname\_projX.PDF

Any file that does NOT arrive in the correct format will not be accepted. Points will be taken off for each missing or incorrectly formatted item, which could affect your final grade dramatically. **This is a non-negotiable policy.** Your final designs will be kept on file in a digital archive. We reserve the right to use these in the future as educational aids in the graphic design program.

## **Grading**

### **Course Grading**

Student work will be reviewed by means of formal evaluations. Students will be evaluated according to predetermined requirements for all assignments/papers/tests.

- Tests (6): 60%
- Assignments (3): 20%
- Discussions (7): 10%
- Paper (1): 10%

Final Grade Summary:

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

Late work will be counted against one letter grade for each class period after it is due. Ex: An A grade is lowered to B after one period late, after two periods late, the A is lowered to C, etc.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a 0 for the project. No exceptions. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action as per the student handbook.

All work is expected to be completed and ready for presentation at the assigned date. It is essential to stay up to date with assignments and projects. Late work is unacceptable. Every effort must be made to turn projects in on time. YOU are responsible for finding out what work was missed during your absence, and turning in work missed due to your absence. I will not remind you that a project was due during your absence.

### **Communication**

If you have a question/problem with the material or a technique, please see me as soon as possible. If you wait until the last week of the semester, I might not be able to help you.

### **Health and Safety**

Department of Art will endeavor to comply with the intent of state laws or acts and the University Health and Safety Program to maintain a safe academic and working environment.

The mission of the Midwestern State University Counseling Center is to provide opportunities for students to know themselves as individuals, to form deeper relationships with their peers, and to increase their wellness. The staff of the MSU Counseling Center provides these opportunities through individual and group counseling services, consultation, and mental health educational programs focused on key student development issues and reflecting concern for holistic health and wellness. As providers of mental health services to the student population, the staff are guided by their profession's highest professional and ethical standards. Our personal, academic, and career counseling services are directed towards enhancing the skills students bring to MSU and encouraging the development of skills that will increase their success both at MSU and beyond.

### **Meeting the Counseling Needs of MSU Students**

#### **LOCATION**

Corner of Hampstead and Louis J. Rodriguez Drive

#### **Hours of Operation:**

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday

8:00. a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

**Phone:** 940-397-4618

### **Academic Dishonesty and Student Creed**

The university policy and procedures for academic dishonesty are outlined in the current Student Handbook in Appendix E. No cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Any student engaging in an academic dishonest act will be sanctioned appropriately.

Enrollment in this class constitutes an acceptance to adhere to the Student Honor Creed and all other student conduct policies outlined in the university Student Handbook.

[Student Life and Conduct](#)

[Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

### **Conduct Statement**

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's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to and including an F. Electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods, iPads, personal computers, etc.) are not allowed to be used in class except with the expressed authorization of the instructor. No texting will be tolerated. Using recording devices or media during the class and lectures is strictly



prohibited. Students violating these rules will be sanctioned at the instructor's discretion, and penalties may include lowering the student's grade, including an F, and an instructor drop.

**The instructor reserves the right to initiate an instructor drop with a grade of W, WF, or F, as specified in the Student Handbook (see link above), for reasons to include attendance issues, academic performance in the class, indifferent attitude, or disruptive 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 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 refund amount. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request.)

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

By 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 apply for such assistance through Disability Support Services in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

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.

[Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

## **College Policies**

### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and 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 that 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.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Policy

You must wear a face mask covering your nose and mouth in the classroom. C115F is not conducive to maintaining 10 feet of distance from each other. Neck gaiters and face shields are unacceptable. You must leave the classroom if you do not adhere to this policy. If you forget your mask at home, our art secretary has masks available at her desk.

D2L is an official means of communication and repository for this class's recordings. Please check D2L content and email daily.

Cleaning Protocol: As stated previously, use hand sanitizer before using the E26 spray bottle to clean your keyboard and mouse before and after use.

MSU Coronavirus policies and updates can be found here:

<https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/index.php>

Social distancing: You must maintain 6 feet of social distance from your peers and faculty in this room.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

### Notice

The course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule changes may be made at the instructor's discretion.

### **Social Justice Defined**

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values. The classroom is where students will be treated and treated with respect as human beings, regardless of their worldview, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious or spiritual affiliation or lack thereof, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is the keystone of practical, intellectual, and academic pursuits. The expression of differences of opinion is valued and encouraged.

A comprehensive course schedule will be distributed with each new project rubric and will include in-class exercises.