

**ART 104: Introduction to Art**  
**School of Arts and Communication, Visual Arts Department**  
**Southwestern Community College**  
**Spring 2017: Saturdays, 9am -12:25pm, Room 751**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor: Amanda Cachia**

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**Course website: Blackboard**

**Course description:**

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the creation, materials, and the historical and contemporary context within the history of visual arts. The course will span all ages and movements up to our contemporary moment. The course will contain lectures, image presentations, and student presentations. The goal of this class is to provide students with a pathway to understanding, critiquing, and creating visual art and to help express themselves and the ideas of visual art with the use of an artistic vocabulary.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Student will analyze and describe the variety of definitions, functions and expressions in the visual arts.
2. Student will appraise and evaluate the elements of style, form and design in the visual arts.
3. Student will analyze and explain the salient features and vocabulary of drawing, painting, print making and imaging. Student will compare and contrast the form, content, and cultural context of pre-modern art of the Western world. Student will compare and contrast the form, content, and cultural context of pre-modern art of the Western world.
4. Student will describe and compare the form, content, and cultural context of contemporary Western art and non-Western contemporary art.
5. Student will describe and compare the form, content, and cultural context of nineteenth century Western art.

**Evaluation:**

Students are given letter grades for projects/papers. I am more interested in your comprehension of ideas than in grammar and spelling. More specific criteria will be provided for individual assignments.

**Class Participation/Attendance:**

Your preparation and active class participation are needed to fulfill the objectives of the course. To get the most benefit from this class, students need to participate consistently and regularly. Excessive absences, tardiness and lack of participation will cause you to miss information and activities, which can reflect negatively on your grade. The instructor reserves the right to drop students for excessive absences and lack of participation on the part of the student. Students who arrive late or who need to leave early must sign the late arrival/early departure clipboard at the front of class. Students with extenuating circumstances and the ability to make up missing coursework must contact the instructor beforehand in order to request possible extension of allowable absences. The instructor's decision is final.

**Email:**

You are required to regularly check your email for class assignments/updates.

**Texts:** Lois Fichner-Rathus, *Understanding Art* 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.

The book can be purchased second-hand from Amazon and they are also available from the campus bookstore.

**Late Work:**

Missed deadlines constitute a LOWER letter grade per each class period the assignment is late. For example, if a student turns in an assignment two class periods after the project was due then the grade will be lowered by two whole letter grades from the actual grade the student would have received.

**Academic Success Center Referral:**

To further your success, reinforce concepts, and achieve the stated learning objectives for this course refer to the Academic Success Center learning assistance services. Upon request for tutorial services, you will be automatically enrolled in NC3: Supervised Tutoring, a free noncredit that does not appear on your transcripts. Services are located in the ASC (420), the Writing Center (420 D), the Reading Center (420), Math Center (426), the library LRC Interdisciplinary Tutoring lab, MESA specialized on-campus School, Tutoring Labs, the Higher Education Center, and the San Ysidro Education Center. Online learning materials and Online Writing Lab (OWL) are available at [www.swccd.edu/~asc](http://www.swccd.edu/~asc).

**Academic Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Academic dishonesty of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

Students are expected to behave respectfully towards the professor and other students in the class. Please avoid disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior constitutes any activity that disrupts classroom instruction or learning. Examples of disruptive behavior include talking during instruction, constant interruptions that are irrelevant to the course or current topic, tardiness to class, and early departures. Phones are to be turned OFF during class. The professor retains the right to excuse anyone from class who is being disruptive. In extreme cases, a student may be dropped from the course at the discretion of the professor.

**Disability Support Services (DSS) Accommodation Sheet:**

Southwestern College recommends that students with disabilities or specific learning needs contact their professors during the first two weeks of class to discuss academic accommodations. If a student believes they may have a disability and would like more information, they are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services (DSS) at (619) 482-6512 (voice), (619) 207-4480 (video phone), or email at [DSS@swccd.edu](mailto:DSS@swccd.edu). Alternate forms of this syllabus and other course materials are available upon request.

**Grading:**

1. Class work/Participation: 10%

Assignments:

2. Project 1: Artwork Analysis: 400 words, typed, double-spaced. **Due Week 6, Saturday March 11: 15%**
3. Project 2: Art Project: Make an artwork & write a 400 word description. **Due Week 9, Saturday April 8: 20%**
4. Final: Museum Visit Artwork Analysis: 750 words, typed, double-spaced. **Due Week 15, Saturday May 20: 25%**
5. FINAL EXAM: **Saturday May 20, 9am – 11am: 30%**

**NB. More information about the Assignments and the Final Exam will be provided in lectures.**

The following criteria will be used to grade your work.

- Full comprehension and incorporation of concepts and techniques
- Effective execution of artistic goals, and competent use of materials
- Inventiveness - a unique and creative approach, pushes beyond the easiest solutions
- Resolution of work - the work is complete and on time

### **Evaluation Rubric:**

#### **A= Excellent**

This work is comprehensive and detailed, integrating themes and concepts from discussions, lectures and readings. Writing is clear, analytical and organized. Arguments offer specific examples and concisely evaluate evidence. Students who earn this grade are prepared for class, synthesize course materials and contribute insightfully.

#### **B=Good**

This work is complete and accurate, offering insights at general level of understanding. Writing is clear, uses examples properly and tends toward broad analysis. Classroom participation is consistent and thoughtful.

#### **C=Average**

This work is correct but is largely descriptive, lacking analysis. Writing is vague and at times tangential. Arguments are unorganized, without specific examples or analysis. Classroom participation is inarticulate.

#### **D= Unsatisfactory**

This work is incomplete, and evidences little understanding of the readings or discussions. Arguments demonstrate inattention to detail, misunderstand course material and overlook significant themes. Classroom participation is spotty, unprepared and off topic.

#### **F=Failed**

This grade indicates a failure to participate and/or incomplete assignments

A = 94-100

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 80-83

C+ = 77-79

C = 74-76

C- = 70-73

D+ = 65-69

D = 60-64

F = 0-59

**Classroom environment:**

Ask lots of questions, engage in discussions. I would rather you interrupt me than not ask a question. Participation is a huge part of your grade. We will watch lots of videos and art related films and discuss them.

**Extra credit:**

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the semester. You need not receive a bad grade in this class.

**Class schedule:****Saturday February 4, 2017**

**Week 1:** Introductions, Syllabus, Overview of Course Objectives, What is Art? Art Themes  
Homework: Read Chapter 1: What is Art? pages 1-25

**Saturday February 11, 2017**

**Week 2:** The Vocabulary of Art & Principles of Art  
Homework: Read Chapter 2: Visual Elements of Art, pages 27-67  
Homework: Read Chapter 4: Style, Form, and Content, pages 91-103

**Saturday February 18, 2017**

**Week 3:** Design  
Homework: Read Chapter 3: Principles of Design, pages 69-89

**Saturday February 25, 2017**

**Week 4:** Drawing & Painting  
Homework: Read Chapter 5: Drawing, pages 105-119  
Homework: Read Chapter 6: Painting, pages 121-133

**Saturday March 4, 2017**

**Week 5:** Photography, Film, Video & Digital Art  
Homework: Read Chapter 8: Imaging: Photography, Film, Video, and Digital Arts, pages 149-175

**Saturday March 11, 2017**

**Week 6:** Sculpture  
Homework: Read Chapter 9: Sculpture, pages 177-211

**\*\* Project 1 DUE in class today.**

**Saturday March 18, 2017**

**Week 7:** Classical Art

Homework: Read Chapter 14: Classical Art: Greece and Rome, pages 295-325

**Saturday March 25, 2017**

**Week 8:** The Renaissance

Homework: Read Chapter 16: The Renaissance, pages 357-387

**\*\*\*SPRING BREAK March 27 – April 2, 2017**

**Saturday April 8, 2017**

**Week 9:** Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Impressionism, Realism

Homework: Read Chapter 19: Modern Art, pages 441-473

**\*\* Project 2 DUE in class today.**

**Saturday April 15, 2017**

**Week 10:** Rise of the Avant-Garde: Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism

Homework: Read Chapter 20: The Twentieth Century: The Early Years, pages 476-499

**Saturday April 22, 2017**

**Week 11:** MUSEUM VISIT TODAY on your own

**Saturday April 29, 2017**

**Week 12:** NO CLASS – work on Museum Visit Artwork Analysis

**Saturday May 6, 2017**

**Week 13:** Modernism & Postmodernism: Abstract Expressionism, Pop

Homework: Read Chapter 21: The Twentieth Century: Postwar to Postmodern, pages 501-535

**Saturday May 13, 2017**

**Week 14:** Contemporary Art Now

Homework: Read Chapter 22: Art in the Twenty-First Century: A Global Perspective, pages 537-569

**Saturday May 20, 2017**

**Week 15:** Artwork Analysis DUE in class + FINAL EXAM, 9am – 11am