Introduction

Art 1300 is an introductory course to visual literacy. We will explore how the Visual Arts have been interpreted, valued, and what functions they have played in distinct societies through a variety of cultural contexts and historical periods from pre-modern to contemporary society. 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.

Course Goals

- Learn basic art terminology and apply it to do a formal analysis of an artwork.
- Understand some of the processes and media used to create visual arts.
- Develop the ability to identify artistic styles, techniques, conceptual issues, and traditions related to visual art.
- Discuss the meaning and function of art within distinct cultural contexts and/or time periods.
- Develop the ability to think and write critically about visual art by making intelligent and informed analyses and interpretations of works of art using appropriate terminology.
Required Texts

- **Supplementary readings, class notes and images will be provided online.**

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 and the academic coaches will also check the DB periodically.
- **E-MAIL:** You should email your academic coach first if you have questions about grades or a personal matter first. If you still need further assistance you may email me cafoerster@utep.edu. I check my email once a day. Therefore, if you email me, I will respond within 24 hours time.
- If everything fails, and you need to reach me, call the UTEP Art Department at (915)747-5181 during business hours.

Guidelines

Students will be required to actively participate in 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 Board 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.

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"I’ve been absolutely terrified every moment of my life – and I’ve never let it keep me from doing a single thing I wanted to do."
—Georgia O’Keefe:
Final Grade Evaluation

1. Discussion Board . . . . . . . . . . 30%
   • The discussion board is our main meeting place for communication and discussion. In summary, you will respond to ten discussion boards during the course with both original answers to the discussion questions and then two replies to your classmates.
   • See the guidelines posted under Assignments for a complete description.

2. Tests . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 40%
   • You will have 4 tests for this class, that cover 4 weeks of material, except for Test 2 that will cover 3 weeks of material. Each test will cover one part of the textbook and its supplementary materials; textbook readings and all of the supplementary materials provided including supplemental readings, videos, websites and lecture notes in 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, however note that the exams are worth half of your final grade.

3. Art Review . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 20%
   • Visit a Museum of Art in your area. Select a work from a temporary exhibition or the permanent collection to review. Choose an 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 the museum of gallery. Download the pdf in Assignments for the requirements. Post essays to the Safe Assignment “Art Review” in the Assignments folder by Sunday of week 7.

4. Self Portrait . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10%
   • This creative project may be interpreted loosely. Create a self-portrait in any media or format that can be easily viewed on Blackboard. Write a 1-2 page creative statement that explains your self-portrait. More information will be posted soon under assignments. Post Self-portraits in the Assignments folder by Thursday of week 15.

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. Refer to http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

DISABILITIES 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).

“...photographs alter and enlarge our notions of what is worth looking at and what we have a right to observe.”
—Susan Sontag