

**AHST 2331: Understanding Art**  
**The University of Texas at Dallas**

**Course Syllabus**  
Spring 2015  
Section 001  
MWF 12:00 – 12:50 PM  
Class Location: JO 4.102

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**Professor Contact Information**

Marina Botros Jenkins  
Email: mnb016000@utdallas.edu  
Office Location: JO 4.134  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**NOTE:**

- Outside of class and office hours, the best way to contact me is through your UTD email. I cannot respond to personal email addresses. I will do my best to reply within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.
- All matters associated with this course are subject to change at the instructor's discretion, and will be communicated to students accordingly.

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**Course Description**

Art 2331 introduces students to visual art from various time periods and cultures. I will utilize a thematic approach to the material presented in class, as opposed to a chronological approach. Students will learn how to critically and thoughtfully analyze and understand artworks using formal, visual, and contextual language. Through lectures, readings, writing, museum visits, and group work, students will more fully explore the visual arts as it relates to the world around them. Students will also develop their critical thinking and writing skills as we examine artworks and artists from the past to the present and from a plethora of cultures and regions.

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**Learning Objectives**

*The Student Will:*

- Learn to critique and analyze works of art using the elements and principles of art
  - Evaluate and compare multiple methodological approaches to understanding and placing art within the wider humanities
  - Understand how and why art is made and changed through time
  - Learn how time and place affect how art is created and interpreted
  - Understand and recognize the various processes and materials used to make different art objects
  - Learn to identify and interpret artistic themes in various cultures
  - Visit a local museum or gallery in DFW
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## Required Textbook and Materials

- Text: *Gateways to Art* by Debra DeWitte, Ralph Larmann, and Kathryn Shields, ISBN: 978-0-500-28973-0 (available at the UTD bookstore, off campus books, and amazon).
- Access to eLearning

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## Course Policies

- All students must practice academic honesty. Any academic dishonesty/misconduct is subject to academic penalties by instructor and/or disciplinary action by the university (see detailed UTD policies below).
- Students are always expected to respect each other and the professor. This means don't disrupt the learning process by talking, texting, or constantly showing up to class late.
- No electronic devices allowed to be used during class, including laptops, iPads, or cell phones. I will not waste valuable class time addressing students that are texting during lecture. I will however, make note of such students and dock them grade points as necessary. Furthermore, students will take their notes on paper in order to better retain information. I am not anti-technology, but this policy is non-negotiable. As your instructor, I want you to learn and do well in this course, which is why I expect you to follow these guidelines. Recent studies on laptop note taking versus paper note taking suggest the following:
  1. Students who bring laptops to class perform worse (on average) than their non-laptop using peers, and are much less likely to pay attention in class. [Feel free to check the research: e.g., <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1078740> <http://www.winona.edu/psychology/media/friedlaptopfinal.pdf> or any of the vast literature on the detriments of multitasking for performance.]
  2. Students who take notes with pen & paper perform better on exams than students who type their notes:  
<http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/taking-notes-by-hand-benefits-recall-researchers-find/51411>  
<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/22/0956797614524581.abstract>
- There will be **no make-up exams or make-up assignments**. If you predict a future absence, it is your responsibility to turn in assignments early.
- There will be no extra credit assignments. However, extra credit opportunities will be added at the end of each exam.
- Students are expected to attend each class on time and actively participate.

- Punctuality is expected. Persistent tardiness to class is disrespectful to both your instructor and your peers. Continually arriving late to class will affect your participation grade in the course. **Three** tardies will result in **one** unexcused absence for the course; I will consider you absent if you arrive more than 20 minutes late to class or have to leave 20 minutes early.

### Attendance Policy

Attendance for all classes is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive on time and be in class for its entire duration. If you sleep, engage in non-class-related activities, or interfere with your classmates' ability to learn you will be counted absent for that day. Be on time - class starts promptly. Leaving early will count as an absence. All absences regardless of cause (sleeping in/travel/medical or family emergency) follow the guidelines below:

- Students are allowed up to 4 absences with no grade change and no questions asked. Save them for when you really need them.
- Students with 5-6 absences will be dropped one full letter grade.
- Students with 7 or more absences will be dropped two full letter grades.

**You are responsible for keeping track of your own attendance. You are responsible for material you miss when you are absent. Please do not ask me if you “missed anything important” when you miss class. I suggest you exchange contact information with a fellow peer in order to access missed notes and assignment directions as necessary.**

### Grading

Grades are based upon a variety of assessments that total 100 points:

A+ 98 – 100 A 93 – 97 A- 90 – 92 B+ 88 – 89 B 83 – 87 B- 80 – 82  
 C+ 78 – 79 C 73 – 77 C- 71 - 72 D+ 68 – 69 D 63 - 67 D- 60 – 62 F below 60

Midterm Exam	20%
Museum Essay	15%
Group Project	15%
In Class Weekly Writing	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	10%
<b>Total =</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Assignment Explanations

### *Midterm & Final Exam:*

These exams will be over information covered in course lectures and assigned readings. The final exam is not cumulative. Both exams will consist of slide identification questions, short essays (with slides), longer comparative essays (with slides), short answer questions (with or without slides), and extra credit questions (with or without slides). There will be no makeup exams.

### *In Class Writing Assignments:*

These writing assignments will be given once a week at random. You will be given a writing prompt that coincides with a chosen slide. You will need to discuss and write about the image/images for approximately 10-15 minutes. The images will be chosen at random, but will always come from previously assigned readings not yet discussed in class. The goal of in class writing is to sharpen your critical thinking and analytical skills. These essays will be graded on a 0-5 scale, with 5 being an A. There will be no makeup in-class writing assignments. However, I will drop one essay at the end of the semester. Use this kindness responsibly.

### *Museum Essay:*

During the semester, you will visit a local museum or gallery in order to examine and write about an artwork of your choice. You will get a more comprehensive museum handout explaining the details and directions within the first month of class. The paper is required to be between 5-6 pages long (no less than 5 and no more than 6), Times new Roman 12 point font, and 1" margins. More information will come at a later date.

### *Group Project:*

This semester you will participate in a group project. The project will be to curate an exhibition that revolves around a particular theme, such as the themes we will be learning about this semester. Group members (3-5 students) will be required to demonstrate their clear role within the group. Your exhibition will be presented to the class towards the end of the semester. More details on this assignment will be given at a later date.

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<b>Course Calendar</b>	<b><i>Subject to change</i></b>	<b>GW= Gateways to Art textbook</b>
Mon, Jan 12	Introduction & Syllabus	
Wed, Jan 14	What is Art? The Value of Art, Censorship of Art GW: 26-29; 41-43	
Fri, Jan 16	Elements of 2D and 3D Art GW: 46-75	
Mon, Jan 19	<b>Martin Luther King Day, No class</b>	

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Wed, Jan 21	Elements of 2D and 3D Art GW: 76-115
Fri, Jan 23	Principles of Organization GW: 116-151
Mon, Jan 26	Writing about Art; Content and Analysis GW: 152-163
Wed, Jan 28	Drawing, Painting, Printmaking GW: 166-203
Fri, Jan 30	Graphic Arts and Photography GW: 204-227
Mon, Feb 2	Craft and Sculpture GW: 248-273
Wed, Feb 4	Architecture GW: 274-291
Fri, Feb 6	Group Project Instructions Museum Paper Instructions
Mon, Feb 9	Art and Community GW: 454-469
Wed, Feb 11	Art and Community GW: 294-297, 376-380, 411-413
Fri, Feb 13	<b>Library databases session. Meet in McDermott Library lobby by circulation desk.</b>
Mon, Feb 16	Spirituality in Art GW: 470-483
Wed, Feb 18	Spirituality in Art GW: 314-324, 332-336, 380-381
Fri, Feb 20	Group Project work session in class
Mon, Feb 23	Art and the Cycle of Life GW: 484-495
Wed, Feb 25	Art and the Cycle of Life GW: 300-304

Fri, Feb 27	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
Mon, March 2	Art and Illusion GW: 508-519
Wed, March 4	Art, Rulers, and War eLearning: <i>Symmons</i> , pg. 233-270
Fri, March 6	Art, Rulers, and War GW: 520-541, 304-309, 403-405
Mon, March 9	Art of Social Conscience GW: 542-553
Wed, March 11	Art of Social Conscience GW: 380-386, 408-410
Fri, March 13	<b>TBA</b>
March 16-20	<b>Spring Break</b>
Mon, March 23	The Body in Art GW: 554-567
Wed, March 25	The Body in Art GW: 309, 344-346, 392-393
Fri, March 27	The Body in Art GW: 410-426, 433-434 <b>Museum Paper Due</b>
Mon, March 30	Art and Gender GW: 568-583
Wed, April 1	Women in the Arts eLearning: <i>Chadwick</i> , pg. 87-100
Fri, April 3	Women in the Arts eLearning: <i>Chadwick</i> , pg. 101-113
Mon, April 6	Women in the Arts eLearning: <i>Garrard</i> , pg. 97-112
Wed, April 8	“Pollock” movie

Fri, April 10	“Pollock” movie continued
Mon, April 13	Expression in Art GW: 578-589
Wed, April 15	Expression in Art GW: 416-430
Fri, April 17	Expression in Art GW: 391-393, 504
Mon, April 20	<b>Group Presentations</b>
Wed, April 22	<b>Group Presentations</b>
Fri, April 24	<b>Group Presentations</b>
Mon, April 27	<b>Group Presentations</b>
Wed, April 29	<b>Group Presentations</b>
Fri, May 1	<b>Final Exam</b>

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### **Academic Honesty & Integrity**

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the UTD Judicial Affairs web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that students demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one’s own work or material that is not one’s own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying

academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details).

Please consult the following web sites addressing academic integrity as well as what constitutes cheating at UTD:

**<http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-AcademicIntegrity.html>**

**<http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-Basicexamples.html>**

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### **University Policies Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations that govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

Please review the university policies at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

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### **Withdrawal from Course**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, the instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose to drop the course once you are enrolled. It is not my responsibility to remind you of withdrawal deadlines. **Be responsible.**

I have read the policies for AHST 2331.001 and understood them. I agree to comply with the policies for the Spring 2015 semester. I realize that failure to comply with these policies will result in a reduced grade in the course.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

UTD e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_