

Course Syllabus

Course Information

AHST 2331.001 Understanding Art
Fall, 2006 Tues. – Thurs. 11:00 to 12:15 CN 1.102

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Marian (Polly) Methenitis
972 931-6915 e-mail: metheni@utdallas.edu
Office: J05.109 Office Hours: One hour after class on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment.
Since our class meets in the Conference Center building, it will usually be more convenient to meet there after class rather than in Jo 5.109.

No Course Prerequisites

Course Description

AHST 2331 is an introduction to the visual arts. It will include a study of art-related vocabulary, visual elements, design principles, and various methods and media, as well as a brief chronological survey of Western art-historical styles. The goal is a greater understanding and appreciation of the visual arts.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the vocabulary and terms pertinent to the study and discussion of the visual arts.
- Describe and explicate various media and methods used by visual artists.
- Analyze formal aspects of original artworks exhibited in the Dallas Museum of Art.
- Create an original artwork showing an understanding of visual elements and design principles.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of several major styles and movements in Western art history.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Mark Getlein, *Living with Art*, 7th Edition

Assignments and Academic Calendar

Reading assignments should be done prior to the dates listed.

Th. Aug. 17 Overview of the course

CONCEPTS AND VISUAL ELEMENTS

T. Aug. 22 Chapter 1, "Living with Art".

Th. Aug. 24 Chapter 2, "What Is Art?"

T. Aug. 29 Chapter 3, "Themes of Art".

Th. Aug. 31 Chapter 4, "The Visual Elements".

T. Sep. 5 Chapter 5, "Principles of Design".

Th. Sep. 7 Design Project in the Visual Arts Bldg, Room 1.116. (Half of the class) Bring a scissors

T. Sep. 12 Design Project in the Visual Arts Bldg., Room 1.116. (Half of the class) Bring a scissors.
This design project will count for 10 points of Test 1.

Th. Sep. 14 Review for Test 1

T. Sep. 19 Test 1. Bring a pen. Tests written in pencil will not be accepted.

MEDIA AND METHODS

Th. Sep. 21 Chapter 6, "Drawing"; Chapter 7, "Painting".

T. Sep. 26 Painting, continued.

Th. Sep. 28 Chapter 8, "Printmaking"; Discuss Museum Assignment.

T. Oct. 3 Chapter 11, "Sculpture"

Th. Oct. 5 Chapter 12, "Crafts"

T. Oct. 10 Chapter 13, "Architecture"

Th. Oct. 12 Review for Test 2

T. Oct. 17 Test 2. Bring a pen. Tests written in pencil will not be accepted.

ARTS IN TIME

Th. Oct. 19 Chapter 14, "Ancient Mediterranean Worlds"

T. Oct. 24 Chapter 15, "Christianity and the Formation of Europe"

Th. Oct. 26 Chapter 16, "The Renaissance" **MUSEUM PROJECT DUE**

T. Oct. 31 Chapter 17, "The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries ", Baroque and Rococo.

Th. Nov. 2 Chapter 21, "The Modern World"; 19th Century: Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism

T. Nov. 7 Chapter 21, "The Modern World"; Impressionism and Post-Impressionism

Th. Nov. 9 Chapter 21. "The Modern World"; Early 20th Century

T. Nov. 14 Chapter 22, "Art since 1945"

Th. Nov. 16 Review for Test 3

T. Nov. 21 Test 3. Bring a pen. Tests written in pencil will not be accepted.

Bring a 9 x 12 self-addressed stamped envelope (at least 2 stamps) if you would like your exam mailed to you.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be based on four equally-weighted assignments: three written exams based on material covered in class and in the reading assignments, and a project based on artworks in the Dallas Museum of Art. The test grades will be tallied numerically with regard to a total score of 100 and then converted to a letter grade according to the following scale:

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

This same scale will apply when averaging grades for a final grade.

The Museum Project will be given only a letter grade, equivalent to the following when averaged:

A 95; A- 91; B+ 88; B 85; B- 81; C+ 78; C 75; C- 71; D 65; F 50 or less, depending on the project.

Course and Instructor Policies

Make-up Exams: Students should make every effort to be present on the exam dates listed in the syllabus. It is difficult to schedule a make-up exam for this course because of the limited availability of this classroom and others with the necessary tech equipment. If a make-up exam is necessary, it must be taken within one week of the scheduled test.

Late projects: The Museum assignment is due at the beginning of the period on the date listed in the syllabus. Late projects will not be accepted unless previous arrangements have been made with the professor.

Attendance: It is assumed that students will attend class regularly, be on time, and stay for the entire class period. Class attendance is an integral part of the class and will be a factor in determining final grades. After 3 absences the final grade will be lowered by one letter grade. After four or more absences the final grade may be lowered by two letter grades, a talk with the professor is in order, and it may be advisable to withdraw from the course. Habitual tardiness may also result in a lowered final grade. Students are responsible for obtaining information or material presented in class during an absence and will also be held responsible for work due the class time following an absence.

Phone calls and e-mails: My home phone number is listed at the top of the syllabus. Please use that number if you want or need to talk with me directly. I welcome your phone calls anytime after 8 AM and before 10 PM and will get back to you promptly if you leave a message on my answering machine. Please send e-mails to the address listed at the top of the syllabus and not via the Web CT site. I seldom look at the Web CT site, except to upload pertinent class information. Always use your UTD student account address when sending an e-mail, and be sure the content is class related.

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

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 which 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.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

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 a student 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). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

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, I 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 not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the

required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.