

# Art Appreciation Syllabus, Online Course

---

*ARTS-1301*

---

South Plains College

Instructor: Scotty Hensler, Assistant Professor of Art

Email: [shensler@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:shensler@southplainscollege.edu)

---

## *Course Description*

---

This is an introductory course that studies visual culture including arts through an exploration of ideas and processes, including evaluation of selected items, works, and creating individual projects. No prerequisite required. This course should not be taken by an art major or an art minor.

---

## *Course Type*

---

This class is asynchronous. We will not meet online as a class at any time. That means you decide independently when to review materials before the assignment deadlines. Each week, I will post presentations, readings, viewings, audio, and/or discussions for your journaling assignment and usually a creative or field project assignment in Blackboard.

This course is fully online and can be done at any time of the day or week. Weekly participation and completion of each week's content and assignments are required with much flexibility as to whether you participate day or evening, or during the week, or on the weekend. Whether you participate during the week or over the weekend is up to you, as long as you do not miss weekly content assignments. Please log in to Blackboard and participate a minimum of two times per week to fully complete all posted weekly content and check Blackboard assignments. You should expect to spend about 3-6 hours per week on this course's work.

---

## *Course Objectives*

---

- Cultivate a greater appreciation and understanding of visual culture, arts, its elements, practice, and theory
- Introduce students to a broad range of art media and techniques.

- Promote thought and communicate about the visual, intellectual, social, and historical facets of visual culture and art.
  - Provide techniques to evaluate, appreciate, and understand visual culture and art.
- 

### *Learning Outcomes*

---

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Apply art terminology as it specifically relates to works of art.
  2. Demonstrate knowledge of art elements and principles of design.
  3. Differentiate between the processes and materials used in the production of various works of art.
  4. Critically interpret and evaluate works of art.
  5. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of arts on culture.
- 

### *Course Content*

---

- Define the term “art” and its purposes, including general categories of visual arts.
  - Identify and interpret visual elements and principles.
  - Examine the techniques of visual communication, visual culture including in the "Fine" and Applied Arts.
  - Understand the art of the past historical and current modes in visual art and how those modes influence making visuals.
- 

### *Course Requirements*

---

- Participation: students are expected to participate in communicating about topics (online), through class journaling, creative activities, and field activities.
  - \*If a student is continuously unresponsive in participation and communication, a warning email will be sent to that student with a week to respond to the request. If no response is received at that point the student will be submitted to administration for course withdrawal.
- Preparation: Students should come to class prepared, with supplies, having viewed and/or read the assigned material. The students are expected to take notes on all materials presented.

- \*Students are responsible for assigned video viewings and reading content even if not covered during the lecture. •
  - Quizzes: Quizzes are usually not a part of this class unless needed for better assessment. Quizzes could include matching, fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, and short-answer questions.
  - Texts: There is **no** required textbook for this class. The instructor will provide readings and videos.
- 

### *Possible Methods*

---

- Video and text presentations
  - Journaling about presentations
  - Possible guests/artist videos and texts
  - Art articles and art experiences
  - Assignments: writing, drawing, field observations, creative processes, and other creative activities
- 

### *Class Participation*

---

Class participation and active learning are important aspects of this class, so your engagement is critical to your success regardless of modality/delivery. However, I understand that sometimes you must miss examinations or other academic obligations affecting your grades because of illness, personal crises, and other emergencies. I will work with you as best I can to help you succeed in the course. Please contact me as soon as possible when such absences arise so we can make arrangements to get you caught up. This policy will not apply in the case on non-emergency absences.

---

### *Grading Criteria*

---

- Class Participation: Engagement with class presentations and assignments as well as work performance and ethic in activities and assignments including using Class Civility.
- Class Civility: Information, images, and discussion topics may deal with subject matter uncomfortable or offensive to some students. Discussions require a calm and open-minded dialogue to consider different points of view. Civility and respect will be required at all times. There will be zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior.
  - Be prepared with preliminary work so you can participate fully.

- Individual behavior and attitude can greatly influence the class mood as a whole. Please conduct yourself in a way that promotes the productivity of the entire group.
- Academic Honesty: faculty is strongly committed to upholding standards of academic integrity. These standards, at the minimum, require that students never present the work of others as their own.
  - \*WARNING: Cheating or plagiarism will result in the student receiving a 0 on the assignment for the first offense, second offense you will be dropped from the class.

Grading Scale:

- 90-100 - "A" Excellent work
- 80-89 - "B" Above average work
- 70-79 - "C" Average work
- 60-69 - "D" Below average work
- 00-59 - "F" Fail

Overall Grade:

- Points assessed for each assignment.
- Class Participation & Civility
- Weekly Class Journaling over Class Topics
- Creative and Field Projects
- Key Creative and Field Projects
- Extra Credit opportunities are provided.

---

*Technology Requirements*

---

To be successful in this course, you will need to be able to access and use SPC email, online readings, and videos through Blackboard. If online access for you could be an issue, please contact me to figure out options. You also need access to a **digital camera**, like on your phone will do. If you don't have access to a camera, let your instructor know so that we can figure out options.

---

*Withdrawal Policy*

---

The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is listed on the [Academic Calendar](#) for this school year. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their

earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course grades and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

---

### *COVID-19 Statement*

---

For information and resources about COVID-19, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>.

---

### *Other Medical and Mental Health Needs*

---

As your instructor, I am committed to working with students with pre-existing medical and mental health needs, as well as new needs that may arise within the semester. I encourage you to reach out to me as early as possible to discuss any adjustments you think may be necessary in this course. Reasonable accommodations may include leveraging the course modules that have been developed in creative ways to maximize your access during times when students need to quarantine due to COVID exposure, or during an absence related to a disability or COVID-19 diagnosis. While I cannot guarantee any specific outcome, I am committed to working with you to explore all the options available in this course.

---

### *Disability Statement*

---

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

---

### *Diversity Statement*

---

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

---

### *Non-Discrimination Statement*

---

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

---

### *Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement*

---

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email [dburleson@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dburleson@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

---

### *SPC Mission Statement*

---

In order to accomplish its mission, South Plains College is committed to the following institutional purposes: To provide students the opportunity to learn as a lifelong endeavor; to acquire skills for communication, critical thinking and problem-solving; to explore the use of technology; to express creativity; to experience leadership; and to grow socially.