

ART 101-01: INTRODUCTION TO ART COURSE SYLLABUS

MWF 8-8:50 a.m.
Walling Lecture Hall, Foster Science Bldg. (WALL-200)

INSTRUCTOR:	Dan McGregor, Assistant Professor of Art
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ACU MISSION STATEMENT

To educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

How do I define a work of art? It is... but a man's timid attempt to repeat the miracle that the simplest peasant girl is capable of at any time, that of magically producing life out of nothing.

Oskar Kokoschka, painter, 1886-1980

And suddenly for the first time I saw a painting... it became entirely clear to me that art in general is much more powerful than I had realized and that... painting can develop just as much power as music possesses.

Wassily Kandinsky, painter, 1866-1944

WELCOME

Welcome to Introduction to Art! This class is designed to introduce non-artists, beginning artists, or simply "interested travelers" to the magical, breathtaking, and intriguing world of visual art! I am of the opinion that making and looking at art is a worthwhile thing to do—that doing it makes us better people, that it makes us somehow more "human." I hope by the end of this journey together you will be enriched by what you've seen—that you'll be "more human," love people more, and be inspired by the way that great art reflects the majesty, benevolence, and creativity of our Maker.

THE BIG QUESTIONS FOR THIS CLASS

Throughout this online course, we'll be exploring a few basic questions:

1. Art: what is it?
2. How can I talk about it and not sound like an idiot?
3. What great artworks do I need to know about before I die?
4. How and why did these artworks arise in a certain time and place?
5. Is there any hope for me as a draftsman ("draftsman" is a fancy word for a "draw-er")?

COMPETENCIES FOR THIS CLASS

By the end of this class, here are the things you should be able to do:

1. Formulate a working definition of art.
2. Be able to look at an artwork and discuss it in an intelligent way, using a specialized vocabulary (what artists call “formal language”).
3. Be able to identify, on sight, great works of Western art, and relate some of the crazy and interesting stories behind them.
4. Be able to visit an art museum with authority, and not be intimidated by difficult, weird, or abstract art.
5. Be able to draw and render (or “shade”) some simple three-dimensional objects.

NUDITY ALERT

You should know that some (certainly not all) of the artworks in this course contain what I call “artistic nudity.” This means images (usually paintings and sculptures) of human figures without clothing.

I personally think it's possible to be a committed Christian and look at images containing artistic nudity. I believe that this type of image celebrates the beauty of what God has made (as opposed to pornography, which degrades the body and turns it into an objectified tool to inspire lustful behavior).

However, I also want to inspire chastity in my students (this is a rare enough virtue in today's world, a rarity that makes it all the more important). Different things might cause different people to stumble. If you think that looking at artistic nudity will be spiritually problematic, this course may not be for you. Remember that your soul is more important than some college class.

REQUIRED TEXT

Living with Art, 9th Edition

CLASS WEBSITE

www.pearsonopenclass.com

Please note that this site replaces the regular Blackboard course site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. You get 9 free absences; any additional absence after that (whether a full absence or through three or more accumulated tardies) will automatically result in a failing grade.
2. There are no excused absences other than official university events accompanied by an official university excuse form delivered 1 week in advance (e.g. athletic events). Illness, sleeping in, doctor's visits, funerals, and family emergencies are NOT excused; they count as some of your 9 free absences.
3. 3 tardies= 1 absence. “Tardy” means you are not in your seat at 8 a.m.
4. If you come in more than 15 minutes late, you will automatically be counted absent, even if you stay for the rest of class. If you leave class early, you will be counted absent.

5. Attendance will be checked by T.A. using attendance chart; you must sit in your assigned seat all semester. If you are not in your assigned seat, you will be counted absent, even if you were present in another seat. All T.A. records are final at the end of class; they will not be altered later.

6. In addition to a written record, the T.A. will record attendance electronically. This system will automatically send you an email if you were absent or tardy. This will give you a “ballpark” idea of your attendance record, but is not an official tally (there are sometimes email glitches, etc. that make this digital record inaccurate). Please direct any questions regarding attendance emails to the T.A., as I will not be keeping the attendance records.

7. Upon incurring a tenth absence for whatever reason, you must drop the course. *You must initiate a course drop (get a form from your advisor).* If this tenth absence is incurred after the deadline to drop a class, you will automatically receive an “F” for the course.

8. It is your responsibility to ask the T.A. what your attendance record is—your own tally of absences is not official.

DRAWING ACTIVITIES

You will be required to do some basic drawing activities as a part of this class. *Your ability will not be graded;* I only require that you participate and exert your best efforts in these drawings.

EXAM INFO AND PROCEDURE

On exam days, you are required to spread out and sit with empty seats on either side of you. You may sit anywhere in the room. Attendance will be checked on those days not by the seating chart but by your submission of a completed exam. Of course, your eyes must remain on your own exam—any eyes directed at a neighbor or neighbor’s paper will be interpreted as cheating. Please bring a Scantron form, two sharpened pencils, and an eraser on every exam day.

A SPECIAL WORD TO SECOND-LANGUAGE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

This class is primarily lecture-driven, which means that the exams will be based mostly on spoken material from class. If English is a second language for you, in some cases this format may present some difficulties (depending, of course, upon your level of comprehension). I tend to speak quickly sometimes and this class uses specialized words. If you think this might be a problem, you might want to drop the class (again, this depends on your comprehension level). You are also welcome to use a digital recorder during lectures. I further encourage you to meet with me after class if there is anything you don’t understand from the day’s lecture.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The overwhelming majority of students are totally honest and don’t cheat or plagiarize. However, occasionally a few students do. This makes me disappointed and angry. I take it personally! Any form of cheating—cheat sheets, looking at someone else’s paper, helping someone else cheat, etc., will result in an automatic 0 and permanent-record documentation with the university for all perpetrators. Cheating is a sin—please don’t do it.

CELL PHONES

Please do one of two things regarding cell phones: either make sure you set them to “vibrate” or don’t bring them to class. You are not allowed to answer, text or otherwise talk on your phone in class.

SUPPLIES

The following supplies are to be purchased by the student.

__ #2 pencils (sharpened) or mechanical pencils (for drawing and exams)

__ eraser

- ___ruler or straightedge
- ___small sketchbook or computer printer paper (for drawing--bring to class every day)
- ___scantron forms

GRADING EVENTS AND CRITERIA

EXAMS

1. Your course grade will be derived solely from four exams. Each of these exams will consist of 25-33 multiple-choice questions.
2. The exams will be derived primarily from lecture content and supplemented by material from your text. Therefore, in order to do well on the test, you must take notes based on the lecture and read the relevant sections in your text. You will be responsible for basic material in the book even if it is not discussed in class.
3. All exams will be equally weighted and the final will be non-cumulative.
4. Any make-up exams (if you missed one due to being sick or away on a school trip) will be administered on the Friday immediately before finals week.
5. No early finals will be given—sorry, no exceptions.

GRADING SCALE

- A: 100-90
- B: 89-80
- C: 79-70
- D: 69-60
- F: 59-0

NOTEWORTHY CALENDAR EVENTS

- 1/16: MLK Holiday (no class)
- 1/30: Last day to request Credit/No-Credit
- 2/17-18: Sing Song
- 3/5-3/9: Midterm Week
- 3/12-3/16: Spring Break
- 4/6: Easter Holiday (no class)
- 4/13: Last day to withdraw from a class (failure for excessive absences after this date)
- 5/4: No regular class (make-up exams administered)
- 5/7 (Mon): Final: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Please note that the university does not allow me to give early finals.