UNDERSTANDING VISUAL ARTS | ARH 2000/SEC 50177 | Summer 2025

Credit Hours/Contact Hours: 3/3
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Credentials: MFA from University of Florida
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Prerequisite

This course requires basic computer literacy, an email address and regular access to the Internet. This course meets area 1 Humanities requirements.

Course Description

Understanding Visual Arts is a general introduction to the study and appreciation of visual art. This course will address the role of art in society, familiarize the student with the elements and principles of design, introduce the use of various media, and provide a brief chronological history of visual art.

Text

"Gilbert's Living with Art" 13th Edition, Mark Getlein, 2024, McGraw-Hill,
ISBN: 9781266606458

Additional Materials

In addition or, more likely, in lieu of your textbook **you must purchase access to Connect**. Connect is an online assignment and assessment software created by the

publisher of your textbook, McGraw Hill. It has many innovative features to help you to better learn, analyze and retain information offered in this course. One of its key features that will be using in the class is the Smart Book. Smart Book is an electronic version of your text, which adjusts to your individual style of learning. As you read each chapter you'll be asked a series of questions. These questions are then used to gauge your understanding of the material and to alter future readings to highlight areas of the text, which you need most help with. Connect based assignments will account for 30% of your overall grade. You may purchase access to [Connect](#) from the bookstore as a stand-alone, or as a package deal with the hard copy of the textbook. You may also purchase the access code directly from the publisher.

Please understand that when you buy access to Connect you are also getting access to the electronic version of the text, so unless you prefer to have a hard copy of the textbook you don't need to buy it.

YOU CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN THIS CLASS WITHOUT ACCESS TO YOUR PERSONAL CONNECT ACCOUNT.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing ART2000, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the Visual Arts and how it relates to our daily lives and cultural history.
- Give a brief but comprehensive history of art.
- Analyze works of art created in the past as well as in the present.
- Demonstrate knowledge of a variety of media and technique that the artist employs.

Class Structure and Requirements

While the flexibility of not having a fixed meeting time is one of the greatest benefits of an online course, that lack of structure often becomes a detriment. To have success in any virtual classroom the student must be self-motivated and self-disciplined. This is particularly true in an eight-week class where the weekly workload is doubled in order to cover all of the material required for the course. To put it bluntly we are trying to fit sixteen weeks of material into a eight-week span.

The online section of Understanding Visual Arts closely resembles its on campus cousin. Just like its face-to-face counterpart it consists of three main parts: readings/quizzes, projects, and tests.

Readings/Quizzes

Each week the student will be assigned readings from the textbook. These readings must be completed using the [Connect Smart Book](#), an online E-book learning tool designed to help with comprehension and retention. (Once you log in to Connect, you'll see a tutorial on how to use it.) Each reading is connected to a weekly Quiz, you must complete all readings for that week and demonstrate a 90% comprehension level before the weekly quiz becomes available. The readings must be done using the Smart Book in order to demonstrate proficiency. I understand that some of you may prefer to read from an actual textbook, I do too. You may do that but you'll still have to complete the Practice section of your Smart Book to demonstrate proficiency. There are only two grade options for the readings – 100% or 0%. To receive 100% you must complete **all** assigned readings for that week, anything less that that will result in a grade of 0%. **Remember the only way to gain access to the weekly Quiz is to demonstrate 90% proficiency. All readings/quizzes are due on Friday 10:00 p.m**., make sure to start your work well in advance so that you have enough time to complete the assignment. **Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive zero (0) points.**

Projects

Projects will be assigned on semi-regular basis. These will vary from research assignments, to on site explorations, to hands on projects. All of the projects will be submitted by clicking the Submit Assignment button by the assigned due date. **Late projects will not be accepted and will receive zero (0) points.** Some of you assignments will require submission of digital images, so you will need access either to a scanner and/or a digital camera — for most of you it will be your phone. If you do not have a smart phone, a scanner is available at the library, or you can have it scanned for you at various commercial locations (Walgreens, Office Max, etc.)

Tests

All tests will be given online. These will be timed exams limited to eighty (80) minutes. Access to exams will be limited to a three-day window. **Exams will expire by 10:00 p.m.** of the last date listed. **If the student fails to take the test during the assigned window he/she will receive a grade of zero (0) for that test.** In case of extreme circumstance the student may arrange to take the exam at a different time, only if that arrangement is made by the Friday before the assigned exam period. The best way to prepare for exams is by regularly completing the weekly readings, taking the time to learn from your weekly quizzes, and regularly taking notes and highlighting key concepts in your text.

Course Outline

Please refer to the course calendar for an outline and important deadlines.
All dates are subject to change.

Evaluation and Grading

The final class grade will be based on the following factors:

Readings:	15%
Quizzes:	20%
Projects	30%
Tests:	35%

The college grading scale is: **A (100-90)**, **B (89-80)**, **C (79-70)**, **D (69-60)**, and **F (59-0**)

Instructor Response and Availability

The instructor will post grades and comments on projects within a week of the due date. Not all projects will receive a comment every time. To view the comments you must click on the Grades tab, then click on the text box icon located on the far right end of the column with the assignment you want to review. You can also access comments by clicking on the assignment, and then clicking on the Submission Details link. For any other inquiries or problems use "Inbox" to simply email the instructor with your question. The instructors emailing schedule is Tuesday and Thursday, i.e., these are the days the instructor has scheduled to answer emails pertaining to the course. You may also meet with the instructor during office hours (listed above). I would strongly encourage you to contact the instructor as often as necessary on all matters pertaining the course, weather it is clarification on a weekly question, unforeseen circumstances that interfere with timely completion of the assignment, or anything in between. Communication will always lead to better results.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policy

Like in any class, attendance is mandatory. Regular participation in weekly assignments i.e. your submission of weekly assignments will be an indication of you attendance in the class. Because of the compressed nature of the class missing just one week of assignments will have a very negative impact on your overall grade. Missing two weeks will prove to be too much to overcome.

No Shows: Students who fail to complete the first week's assignment will be withdrawn from the course as "No Shows". **Once withdrawn as a "No Show" the student will not be reinstated in the class.**

Student Withdrawal: Students wishing to withdraw from a course must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W".

Consequences of Withdrawals: Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

NOTE: *Students are allowed to repeat courses where "D" and "F" grades were earned in order to improve their grades. Students are limited to two (2) repeat attempts per course. The last grade earned is counted as the final grade.*

Incomplete Grade Policy

To receive a grade of "I" (for "Incomplete") in a class, the student must submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last day of the course. The "Incomplete" option is only intended to help students who have an emergency arise in the last two weeks of the class that prevents them from finishing all work. The "Incomplete" provides 30 days from the ending date of the course to make up any missing work. If work is not submitted during this time period, the grade will automatically change to an "F".

Academic Integrity Policy

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. "Cheating" includes but is

not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance, including any use of AI, in completing course work. "Plagiarism" includes, but it not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F or zero grade for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Class Lectures

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf.