

UNDERSTANDING VISUAL ARTS | ARH 2000 / SEC# 10153 / Spring 2026

Gulf Coast State College

Course Information

Course Title: Understanding the Visual Arts

Course Number: 202301

CRN: 10153

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: As an adjunct professor, I do not have office hours. Email is the best way to reach me, or if time permits, you may speak to me before or after class. I will check my e-mail every Tuesday, Wed & Sat, and between 9:00am-noon. I will typically respond to course mail within 48 hours.

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: This course requires basic computer literacy, an email address, and regular access to the Internet. This course meets Area 1 Humanities requirements.

Semester/Year: Spring 2026

Contact Information:

Instructor Name: Tim Gagnon

Credentials: MFA Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA

Office Phone: 850-872-8337

Email: tgagnon@gulfcoast.edu

Division Chair contact information: Dr. Jennifer McAtee Email: jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu

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Approved Course Materials & Resources

Textbook Information: “Gilbert’s Living with Art” 13th Edition, Mark Getlein, 2020, McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 978-1-259-91675-5

Required Materials: In addition or in lieu of your textbook you must purchase access to CONNECT from McGraw Hill.

Curriculum

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 of art and principles of design, introduce the use of various media, and provide a brief chronological history of visual art.

Course Content Delivery: Lectures, class discussions, art projects, and attendance of three art events.

Broad Goals of the Course: In this course, students will develop an appreciation of and the ability to think critically about culture and be provided with the tools to understand, analyze, and discuss works of visual art and material culture. Includes selections from the Western canon.

Approved Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will identify and describe terms, concepts, and methods used in the discipline of art history.
2. Students will apply terms, concepts, and methods used in the discipline of art history to works of visual art and material culture.
3. Students will identify and describe works of visual art and material culture in the works' cultural context, including works from or inspired by the Western canon and other cultural traditions.
4. Students will analyze works of visual art and material culture in the works' cultural context, including works from or inspired by the Western canon and other cultural traditions.
5. Students will generate an analytical response to works of visual art and material culture in the works' cultural context.

Student Expectations of the Instructor

Statement about availability outside of class – office hours: As an adjunct professor I do not have office hours. I arrive 30 minutes before classes start and stay 30 minutes after class.

Email/voicemail response time of the instructor: Email is the best way to reach me or, if time permits, you may speak to me before or after class. I will check my e-mail every Tuesday, Wed & Sat, and between 9:00am-noon. I will typically respond to course mail within 48 hours.

Learning Management System Usage for this course (required for student evaluations):
CANVAS

Expectations of the Student

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 the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework. "Plagiarism" includes, but is 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 grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college. Please see the current Student Handbook for the full College policy on Academic Integrity.

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 of 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 in the GCSC Student Handbook

Attendance Policy:

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. (See entry on Withdrawal in this catalog section.) Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy:

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.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- Student Withdrawal - Students wishing to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the college catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W". The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after the midterm.
- Administrative Withdrawal – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W". The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after the midterm. Please see the Withdrawal policy in the GCSC Catalog for more information.

Incomplete Grade Policy (optional)

Laptop/Personal Technology Policy (optional)

The Measure of Student Performance

Method of Assessment: Class participation, in-class assignments, homework, art projects, Attendance to art events, essays, quizzes, tests, and exams.

Summary of Graded Work

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

Quizzes: 30%

Projects 15%

Tests: 40%

Events: 15%

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