

# UNDERSTANDING VISUAL ARTS

ARH 2000/SEC 10159 | SPRING 2026



**Credit Hours/Contact Hours:** 3/3

**Instructor:** Pavel Amromin

**Credentials:** MFA from University of Florida

**Office Hours:** M, W 8:30 – 9:30 and 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., T, R 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Room 120 (AC)

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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

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.

## Text

“Gilbert’s Living with Art” 13th Edition, Mark Getlein, 2024, McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 1266607277

## 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.**

## Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will identify and describe terms, concepts, and methods used in the discipline of art history.
- Students will apply terms, concepts, and methods used in the discipline of art history to works of visual art and material culture.
- 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.
- 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.
- Students will generate an analytical response to works of visual art and material culture in the works' cultural context.

## 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 an 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 SmartBook, 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 in the "How To" folder.) 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 2.0 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 Smart Questions 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 than 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 your 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.

## GCSC Event Attendance

Over the course of the semester, the student is required to attend two (2) GCSC art events, such as art show openings, artist lectures, and artist demonstrations. I strongly suggest planning ahead to make sure that you are able to attend these; this is especially important in an eight-week session. If, for some reason, you can't attend, you can make up the points by completing extra credit (see below). While we have great theater and music programming, which you should attend if you get a chance, only visual art events count towards your Event grade.

To verify attendance the student will be asked to sign in. **If your name is not on a sign in sheet, you will not receive credit. Sign in sheets are only available during opening receptions.** All eligible events can be found on the Schedule of Events page. Students who reside far outside of the Panama City area will be required to attend two of their local art events and submit pictures and a one-page review of the event.

*NOTE: Because this is an eight-week course, only two events fall within the course time frame. See the Schedule of Events page to note the dates and times of those events and make sure that you are available to attend.*

## Extra Credit

GCSC will host a number of "Visual Arts Events" over the course of the semester. The dates of events can be found on the Schedule of Events page. To receive extra credit, the student must attend the event/gallery and write a review (one page minimum) of the show they've attended. The review should be based on the material you have learned in the class. For example, you may talk about what "Theme of Art" a particular work fits into, and why. You may also approach the work from a formal standpoint and talk about composition, elements of design, media, etc. Another approach may be comparing the work to another work from art history. Your review may include the whole show, a couple of pieces, or just one piece that really grabbed your attention.

(Please attach pictures of the work that you are describing.) Upload your paper to the Extra Credit folder. A successful completion of this assignment will add two (2) percentage points to your overall grade. You may complete a maximum of three (3) extra credit assignments over the course of the semester for a total of six (6) extra points. All events must be Visual Arts events.

## 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:

<b>Readings:</b>	15%
<b>Quizzes:</b>	20%
<b>Projects</b>	30%
<b>Tests:</b>	30%
<b>Events:</b>	5%

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 the “Inbox” to simply email the instructor with your question. **The instructor’s email schedule is Tuesday and Thursday**, i.e., these are the days the instructor has scheduled to answer emails pertaining to the course, so an email on a Saturday night will receive a response on a Tuesday. Please keep that in mind when you schedule your emails. You may also meet with the instructor during office hours (listed above). You are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as often as necessary on all matters pertaining to the course, whether it

is clarification on a weekly question, unforeseen circumstances that interfere with the timely completion of the assignment, or anything in between. Communication, especially early 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 your 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.**

**Withdrawal:** 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 Withdrawals.** 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 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 midterm. Please see the Withdrawals policy in the GCSC Catalog for more information.

*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

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

*NOTE: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse.*

## 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. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion in the student's records.

"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 as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include the overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. See Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy for more details.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or a considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

Sanctions for incidents of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incident and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy (AI)

Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus); however, the use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT,

Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) for generating, rewriting, or enhancing content is not permitted. All work must reflect the student's original ideas and writing. Representing work created by AI as one's own is a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy. See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

## 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](mailto: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 in the GCSC Student Handbook.