

Understanding Visual Art

Course Information

Course Title: Understanding the Visual Arts

Course Number: ARH2000

CRN: 14432

Semester/ Year: Spring 2026

Credit hour:3

Contact hour:3

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

Class Meeting Time: WEB

Textbook: "Gilbert's Living with Art" 13th Edition, Mark Getlein, and Kelly Donahue-Wallace, 2024, McGraw-Hill, SBN10: 1265594856 | ISBN13: 9781265594855

Instructors Information

Instructors Name: Tammy Marinuzzi

Credentials: Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Ceramics, from The University of Florida. Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Photography & Ceramics from the University of New Mexico.

Email: tmarinuzzi@gulfcoast.edu

E-mail Schedule: Mon, Wed & Sat, between 9:00 am -11:00 am

*Typically respond to course mail within 48 hours.

Office Phone: 850-769 -1551 Ext. 2890

Office Hours / Drop-In Hours: Tuesday –Thursday 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Office Location: A.C. Rm 121

Additional Contact Information

Division Chair: Jennifer McAtee

Email: jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu

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Catalog 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.

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

- I. Students will identify and describe terms, concepts, and methods used in the discipline of art history.
- II. Students will apply terms, concepts, and methods used in the discipline of art history to works of visual art and material culture.
- III. 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.
- IV. 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.
- V. Students will generate an analytical response to works of visual art and material culture in the works' cultural context.
- VI. Students will recognize a variety of medium and techniques that the artist employs.

Course Outline

Please refer to the course calendar for an outline and important deadlines.

*All dates are subject to change.

Text / E-Book / Connect

In addition, or instead 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 used 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, in which you need the most help. 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 do not need to buy it.

Course Technology & Support

Canvas: This is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course. For best performance, it is important to keep your browser and software updated to the latest versions.

- Privacy

- Accessibility

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303

Course Policies

Instructor Statement

Communication & Feedback Policy:

Canvas mail is the preferred method of communication for private messages in this course. Please remember, however, that while the Internet is available 24 hours a day, your instructor is not. In this course, you can expect that your instructor will respond to messages in Canvas within 48 hours. Please keep in mind that, I receive a lot of e-mails from many sources other than the students in this class. The standard feedback time for assignments is 1 week unless otherwise indicated.

To stay engaged in the class and meet the course requirements, students are expected to log in to the online course room at least once every 3-4 days.

Urgent issues should be addressed via Canvas mail, phone call, or office visit.

Even though this is a fully online course, I hope to meet you during the semester. If you are on campus for another course or for some other reason, please stop by and introduce yourself.

Please make sure to let me know that you are coming by, I am available to meet with students by appointment or we can arrange to meet on Zoom.

Student Expectation Statement

Structure and Requirements (WEB)

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 you must be self-motivated and self-disciplined.

You are expected to spend at least 2 - 3 hours per week reading, studying, and working on studio projects.

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.

Method of Evaluation

Assignments will be assessed and then given points according to how well they met the requirements in the explanation and written guidelines. End-of-semester grades will be awarded on the following percentage basis.

Grades:

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

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

Readings: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Projects / Discussion 30%

Exams: 25%

Events: 5%

Weekly Reading / Quizzes 40%

Each week you 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 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 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 by 10:00 pm., 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.

Grades / Reading & Quizzes

Connect will automatically update your reading & quiz grades in Connect. However, these grades will not automatically transfer to Canvas. I will transfer your grades from Connect to Canvas. Please allow 2 weeks for this transfer to be completed.

Projects / Discussion 30%

Projects will be assigned on a semi-regular basis (6-8 will be assigned in total). These will vary from research assignments to on-site explorations, to hands-on projects. All 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 Projects will require the submission of digital images, so you will need access to a scanner and/or a digital camera. If you do not have a scanner there are some available at the library, or you can have it scanned for you at various commercial locations (Kinko's, Office Max, etc.) All Projects will be assigned on Canvas and will show up the week that they are due.

Discussions will be assigned on a semi-regular basis. This portion of the class provides opportunities for you to interact with other students, the instructor. and the content, offering a space for collaborative engagement and diverse perspectives. Discussions are pivotal in cultivating a vibrant learning community, enabling you to delve deeper into the subject matter and exchange insights.

Feedback on Projects

I will post grades and comments on Projects within a week of the due date. Not all posts will receive a comment. 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

Time frame: My goal is to post grades and feedback up to one week after the assignment deadline.

Test 25%

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 pm on the last date listed. If you fail to take the test during the assigned window you will receive a grade of zero (0) for that test. In case of extreme circumstances, 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. There will be 3-4 tests given this term.

GCSC Event Attendance 5%

Over the course of the semester, you are required to attend two (2) GCSC art events such as art show openings, artist lectures, and artist demonstrations. I strongly suggest planning to make sure that you can attend these. If for some reason you can't, 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 toward your Event grades. 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 are listed on the calendar and may also be found on the Event page found under the Modules tab. 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.

Extra Credit

GCSC will host several "Visual Arts Events" over the course of the semester. The events are listed on the calendar and may also be found on the Event page found under the Modules tab (Events). To receive extra credit, you must attend the event/gallery and write a review (one-page minimum) of the show you have attended. The review should be based on the material you have learned in class. For example, you may talk about what "Theme of Art" a particular work fit 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 found under the Modules tab. 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. If you live far outside of Panama City or found an event at an off-campus venue, you may submit a review of that event for extra credit. All events must be Visual Arts events.

Institutional Policies

Academic Integrity

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 on the student's records. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work.

"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.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or 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 incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence 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.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Withdrawals

Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services prior to the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Instructors do not withdraw students from their individual courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

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.).

Incomplete Grades.

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.

Important 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.

Students with Disabilities

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.

Classroom Recording

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.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented on the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online

exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

ChatGPT Statement

Use of ChatGPT or any other generative AI software is strictly prohibited for all assignments submitted for this class. This class is designed to promote critical thinking in developing a genuine understanding of the subject. The weekly essays are the primary vehicle to develop analytical, synthesis, and evaluative skills required for deep learning. They are also the primary assessment tool for this class. Using generative AI in any capacity completely negates the process of learning and assessment.

ChatGPT is an exciting new tool that is transformative and can be useful in many circumstances. It is not appropriate for use in this class. The reasons are obvious but let me restate them here. First, it is morally wrong. Just like copying, plagiarizing, or paying someone to do your work, you are taking credit for something that you did not do. If the lack of integrity does not concern you, consider the detriment to your personal development. If AI does all your work for you, then you learn nothing from the experience. Granted, "Art Survey" may not be applicable to your everyday life but your ability to analyze and synthesize information is. It is precisely that invaluable skill that you fail to develop when you choose not to do your own work.

The college has robust software to detect all AI-generated content. If your submission is identified as being AI-generated it will automatically receive a 0% grade, and you will be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for further disciplinary measures. These measures may include expulsion from the class and, for repeat offenders, the college.

Learner Support

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need to support your success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources [Links to an external site.](#) provided at GCSC.