



Syllabus

Name of Course

ARH2000/ 85112 / Fall 2026

3 Credit Hours/Contact 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 of Humanities requirements.

Contact Information

Instructor

Timothy Gagnon
Lecturer
tgagnon@gulfcoast.edu

Office Hours in person: 30 minutes before and after class.
Typically responds to Canvas course
mail within 48 hours

Division Chair

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Course Information

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. Includes selections from the Western canon.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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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.

Course Materials & Resources:

Mark Getlein, 2024, *Living with Art*, 13th Edition, McGraw-Hill, Connect
You must purchase access to Connect and the digital version of this book to take this course.

Delivery Method:

This course meets face-to-face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the

instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

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 and within Canvas for more information.

Connect: In this course, we will be using a program called Connect. You will access this book in Canvas and instructions are provided in the eBook.

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 better learn, analyze, and retain information offered in this course. One of its key features 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 where you need the most help. Connect-based assignments will account for 45% 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 also want a hard copy of the textbook you do not need to buy it.

Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send out weekly reminders via announcements. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.

Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Description
Aug 17-23	1	<p>“Living with Art” What is art? Recognize ways we live with art, identify characteristics common to what we call art, and learn about the value of visual literacy. Textbook Readings: Chapter 1 Assessments: Chapter 1 Quiz</p>
Aug 24-31	2	<p>“Artists and Audiences” and “Themes of Art” Exploration of the urge to make art, the categorization of art, and understanding different themes in art. Textbook Readings: Chapters 2 & 3 Assessments: Quizzes Chapters 2 & 3</p>
Aug 31-Sept 14	3	<p>The Visual Elements” and “Principles of Design” An exploration of the technical skills and design principles of art. Textbook Readings: Chapter 4 & 5 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 4 & 5</p>
Sept 21-28	4	<p>“Drawing” Materials, techniques, and contexts for this 2D approach. Plus, a Drawing demonstration by the instructor. Textbook Readings: Chapter 6 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 6</p>
Sept 28-Oct 5	5	<p>“Painting” Materials, techniques, and contexts for this 2D approach. Plus, a Painting Demonstration by the instructor. Textbook Readings: Chapter 7 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 7</p>

Oct 5-12	6	<p>“Printmaking” and “Photography” Materials, techniques, context, and technology for the various methods of Printing and Photography. Textbook Readings: Chapters 8 and 9 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 8 and 9</p>
Oct 12-19	7	<p>“Graphic Design” & Art Project 2 Exploring the history of Graphic Design, from religious iconography, to modern Advertising. In the second half, students will create Art Project #2. Textbook Readings: Chapter 10 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 10</p>
Oct 26	8	<p>“Midterm Exam</p>
Nov 2-9	8	<p>“Sculpture and Architecture” The evolution of 3 dimensional art and Architecture throughout history. Textbook Readings: Chapter 11 & 13 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 11 and 13</p>
Nov 9-16	9	<p>“Ancient Mediterranean World” and “Christianity and the Rise of Europe” A closer look at how artistic expression helped shape the development of human civilization. Spanning from Mesopotamia to the Roman Empire. In Chapter 15, Students will explore, the Fall of Rome and how Christianity influenced the development of European civilization and culture through its unique artistic expressions. Textbook Readings: Chapter 14 & 15 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 14 & 15</p>
Nov 16-30	10	<p>“The Renaissance” An overview of important figures, artists and artworks from the Renaissance period. Textbook Readings: Chapter 16 Assessments: Chapter 16 Quiz</p>
Dec 7	11	<p>Final Exam</p>

Grading

GCSC Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

Calculation of Grades

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

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

Quizzes: 30%

Art Projects: 15%

Events: 15%

Exams/Tests: 40%

Weekly Reading and Quizzes: 30%

Each week, you will be assigned readings from the textbook. These readings can be completed using the Connect Smart Book, or the traditional Textbook. After reading the assigned chapters, take the Quizzes in CANVAS.

Art Projects: 15%

There will be three Art Projects during the semester. These art projects will be completed in class, so attendance is mandatory.

Events: 15%

There are three Visual Art Events held during the semester. You are required to attend each event. The dates for the events will be posted and advertised giving students plenty of time to

plan ahead. While at the event, you must take a “selfie” and upload it to the assignments in canvas. If you cannot attend the art event, you will have until the Event dues date to write a Formal Analysis of one of the pieces of art ion display at the event.

Exams: 40%

Students are required to complete a Midterm and Final Exam. The Midterm will cover chapters 1-10 with one essay question. The Final Exam will cover chapters 11-16 with one essay question.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit is available for all students. Visit any art gallery and write a one page, three paragraph formal analysis of a single piece of art displayed there. This Extra Credit will be added to your Midterm or Final Exam grade.

Course Policies

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 accommodation, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

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. 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 (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form 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 (W2)* – 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.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

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.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"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 overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"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.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

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.

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.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Prohibited Use of AI

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as 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.

There is robust software available to detect all AI-generated content. If your submission is identified as being AI-generated and you cannot show any documentation to prove otherwise, it will automatically receive a 0% grade. If you choose to dispute this ruling, you will be asked to provide an in-person writing sample in the testing center. With a second offense, 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.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

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 to the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

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