



Syllabus

Name of Course

ARH2000 / 85442/ 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 Humanities requirements.

Contact Information

Instructor

Jamie Zimchek
Lecturer
Jzimchek@gulfcoast.edu
Division Chair: 850-872-3886

Office Hours online: by appointment
Typically responds to Canvas course
mail within 48 hours

Visual and Performing Arts Division Chair

Dr. Jennifer McAtee
Division Chair
jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu
850-872-3886

Division Administrative Assistant

Danyelle VanderHeide
Senior Administrative Assistant
dvanderhe@gulfcoast.edu
850-769-1551 x 3886

Course Information

Catalog 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

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.

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 is a web-based course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in 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 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.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus and within Canvas for more information.

Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, and assignment feedback. 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 Canvas mail 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. Please use Canvas mail and NOT GCSC email for communication.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send out announcements as needed. These announcements may include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.

Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Description
August 17-23	1	"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
August 24-30	2	"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 and 3 Assessments: Quizzes Chapters 2 and 3
Aug 31-Sept 6	3	"The Visual Elements" An exploration of the vocabulary of art. Textbook Readings: Chapter 4 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 4 and Guest Lecture
Sept 7-13	4	"Principles of Design" An exploration of the vocabulary of design Textbook Readings: Chapter 5 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 5
Sept 14-20	5	"Drawing" Materials, techniques, and contexts for this 2D approach. Textbook Readings: Chapter 6 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 6 and Exam #1 (Chapters 1-5)
Sept 21-27	6	"Painting" Materials, techniques, and contexts for this 2D approach. Textbook Readings: Chapter 7 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 7
Sept 28 – Oct 4	7	"Printmaking"

		Materials, techniques, and contexts for these 2D approaches. Textbook Readings: Chapters 8 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 8 and PROJECT #1 Due
Oct 5 - 11	8	"Photography" Materials, techniques, and contexts for the history and current role of photography in the art world. Textbook Readings: Chapter 9 Assessments: Quiz Chapter 9
Oct 12 - 18	9	"Graphic Design" Covering signs and symbols as well as data visualization in Chapter 10 Textbook Readings: Chapter 10 Assessments: Chapter 10 Quiz
Oct 19-25	10	"Sculpture and Installation" 3D forms and installation work in Chapter 11. Textbook Readings: Chapter 11 Assessments: Chapter 11 Quiz
Oct 26-Nov 1	11	"Arts of Ritual and Daily Life" An overview of more objects that are designed with both form and function in mind. Textbook Readings: Chapter 12 Assessments: Chapter 12 Quiz, Exam #2
Nov 2-8	12	"Architecture" An examination of architectural terms and historic development. Textbook Readings: Chapters 13 Assessments: Quizzes for Chapter 13
Nov 9-15	13	"Ancient Mediterranean Worlds" A closer look at ancient history and art in the ancient Mediterranean World. Textbook Readings: Chapter 14 Assessments: Quiz 14
	14	"Christianity and the Formation of Europe" An exploration of the history, culture and art from the age of Constantine through the High Middle Ages Textbook Readings: Chapter 15 Assessments: Chapter 15 Quiz and Timeline Project
Nov 23-29	15	*Thanksgiving Break: Nov 25-29 Students will 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.

		Assessments: REQUIRED ESSAY
Nov 30-Dec 6	16	"Renaissance" An overview of important artists and artworks from the Renaissance period. Textbook Readings: Chapter 16 Assessments: Chapter 16 Quiz, FINAL EXAM

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

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

Method of Evaluation

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:

Readings: 20%
Quizzes: 25%
Projects 25%
Events: 5%
Exams: 25%

Weekly Reading 20% and Quizzes 25%

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 in order to demonstrate proficiency. I understand that some of you may prefer to read from an actual textbook. You may do that, but you'll still have to complete the Practice section of your Smart Book to demonstrate proficiency and receive a grade. 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 Sunday by 11 pm, so make sure to leave yourself enough time to complete the assignment. **Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive zero (0) points.**

Grades for Reading & Quizzes

Connect will automatically update your reading & quiz grades in Canvas.

Projects 25%

Projects will be assigned on a semi-regular basis (2 will be assigned in total). These will both be 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 Projects will require the submission of digital images, so you will need access to a scanner (a scanner app on your phone will also work) and/or a digital camera like the one on your phone. 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 before they are due.

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 link.

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

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 ahead to make sure that you are able to 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 grade. To verify attendance, the student will be asked to sign in and take a selfie at the event with your favorite work of art and

upload this to the EVENT Assignment. All eligible events will be listed on the calendar and may also be found on the Events 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 each event.

Extra Credit

GCSC will host a number of “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 an event/gallery and write a brief review (300-350 words) 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 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 and images. Successful completion of this assignment will add 100 points to your overall grade as part of Event Attendance. You may complete a maximum of three (3) extra credit assignments over the course of the semester for a total of 300 extra Event Attendance 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.

Exams 25%

All tests will be given online. These will be timed exams limited to ninety (90) minutes. Access to exams will be limited to a four-day window. Exams will expire by 11:59 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 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 three tests given this term.

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 accommodations, 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 work submission in this online course by designated deadlines is required to pass this course.

You are expected to familiarize yourself with deadlines as stated in the syllabus. In the event of missed deadline, 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.)

Instructors will closely monitor work submissions 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. Review the three AI policy statements provided. Choose which policy best matches your teaching approach, then delete the two unused statements, keeping only the one that reflects your course's AI guidelines.

Limited Assistive Use Only

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.

Use of ChatGPT or any other generative AI software is strictly prohibited for any and all assignments submitted for this class. It will rest on you, as the student, to prove you have not used any generative AI software should your writing flag suspicion. To avoid any back and forth on this, please use either Google Docs or Apple's Pages with "tracking" turned on, or "Track Changes" in Word. This makes it very easy for you to prove your work is your own, should any questions arise.

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 in 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.