Art Appreciation Spring 2015

Course Information
Course Title: Art Appreciation
Gateways to Art Journal for Museum and Gallery Projects
Required Materials: Ruled notebook or anything to take notes on, one small package of 3x5” flashcards, access to a computer and a stable Internet connection, Adobe Acrobat or any .PDF file reader, resources to produce digital images (ex. digital camera, scanner, high resolution cellphone camera, etc.)

Instructor Contact Information/Introduction
Instructor's name: Davinia Miraval, Lecturer
Instructor's office #: FFA 461
Instructor's office hours: By appointment only
Instructor's email: Only through Blackboard mail

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the visual arts, and will cover basic concepts, terminology and styles in a manner intended to accommodate a variety of learning styles. Students will be exposed to several historical western and non-western cultural styles of art in a variety of media, including architecture. Prior to the art historical study of these styles, students will devote several weeks to the study of the fundamental concepts and terminology of art, as well as methods of making and issues surrounding the creation of art. Students will also visit an exhibition in the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts. Although frequently used to fulfill freshman core requirements, Art Appreciation is geared to students at all levels, from all academic disciplines. Students need not have had any prior experience in art to succeed in this class, and there are no pre-requisites for enrollment. However, regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions and activities are fundamental to an active appreciation of the material presented in this course.

Course Format
Course material will be presented in a lecture format, utilizing visual support in the form of slides, videos, and works exhibited at the Rubin Center for Visual Arts, and other venues.

Course Prerequisite Information
There are no prerequisites for enrollment in this course.

Course Goals and Objectives
The following goals and objectives have been targeted for this course. Students will gain:
- experience in the formal and iconographic analysis of art objects.
- a fundamental understanding of the concepts and terminology of art.
- a knowledge of the methods of making and issues surrounding the creation of art.
- a knowledge of some of the major monuments of western and non-western art.
- a developing awareness of the significance of individual and historical styles and the manner in which they reflect personal and cultural values.
Course Outcomes
Students who successfully complete this course will have a basic understanding of the nature of art, the issues surrounding the creation of art and the ways in which art objects and monuments reflect their respective temporal and cultural contexts. They will also have an introductory level knowledge of art historical study of specific works and cultural styles. The study of the visual and symbolic language of art, including the visual elements, principles of design and iconography, will enable students to formally and conceptually analyze works of art; the result will be a heightened sense of visual/perceptual awareness and a marked improvement in critical thinking and communication skills. In learning to appreciate the visual arts, students will explore the nature of self-expression and the emotional aspects of visual communication and will experience greater self-awareness.

Course Requirements

Exams (80% of your final grade)
There will be four exams given in this course. All exams will include questions that require the student to refer to images, as well as questions that do not refer to slides. The objective format will be used, and tests may include slide identifications, multiple choice, true/false or matching type questions. Tentative dates for the first three examinations appear in the following course calendar. Any changes regarding these dates will be announced in class well in advance of the actual test date. Each of the four exams covers a different section of the lecture/text material and comprises 20% of your overall grade in this course.

Participation (20% of your final grade)
Participation is a vitally important component of each student’s overall performance in this course. The participation grade consists of scores on assignments performed in class or independently. Participation assignments are indicated in the course calendar and will be discussed during class. All participation assignments are due on time, and can be written in Spanish. Assignments should be turned in electronically on Blackboard only. Assignments turned in by e-mail or Blackboard message won’t be graded. Assignments turned in after the dead line will have 5 points deducted for every day that the assignment is late.

Assignments

Assignment 1
Survey
Introduction Survey to be completed and returned. Agreement form to be signed and returned. Sign the form by hand, scan and upload or use a cursive font.

Assignment 2-4
Independent Visits to Exhibitions/Reaction. Discuss your reaction to the show in general and pick one work of art to comment upon in more detail. Submit a photograph of the artwork with you on it. Make sure the photos have a good resolution. If the image is not visible you won’t receive a grade. Consider the visual elements and design principles. Use your "Gateways to Art Journal for Museum and Gallery Projects" to help you during the visit. Write notes on it and then put together your essay. Minimum 300 words. As the semester progresses and you have more knowledge on the subject, your assignments should show that and be more complex and precise with the Principles of Design and Elements of Art. The more elements and principles you state correctly, the better your grade.

DO NOT EMAIL ME your assignment. You won’t get a grade if you do. Prepare with time and do not give me any “flash drive,” “computer” excuses.
Assignment 2 – El Paso Museum of Art
Assignment 3 - Cultural visit from the list on Blackboard
Assignment 4 - Cultural event in the arts, not crafts, of your choosing, i.e. concerts by the symphony, jazz performances, musicals, plays, dance, art movies, museum lectures, exhibition openings, art performances, poetry or literature readings etc. Do not repeat venues. Make sure that the events are carried on by professionals, do not go to child plays or craft markets. If you are not sure that the event you want to attend is appropriate for the class, ask me after class or send me a Blackboard message. An EVENT is not a visit to a museum where there is not a “special thing” happening.

Extra Credit
All the pop-up quizzes done during class or on Blackboard count as extra credit points that will be added to the exam grades. Extra credit questions may also be present on the exams. Make-ups for these opportunities won’t be offered. No other extra credit will be given in this class.

Grading Standards and Criteria
Evaluation of student performance for this course is done in the following manner:
All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

- 90% & above: A excellent
- 80% & below 90%: B above average
- 70% & below 80%: C average
- 60% & below 70%: D below average
- Below 60%: F unsatisfactory, failing

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who do not earn a final average of at least 70% (C) will not pass this course and will be required to repeat it. Students who do not perform well on Exam 1 should contact me immediately.

Course Policies

Attendance and Conduct
Attendance, punctuality, participation and appropriate class conduct are considered performance criteria for this class. Failure to perform to required standards will result in strong grade penalties and may result in failure of this course.

Attendance Policy:

- Students who arrive late or leave early will be counted as absent.
- Each student is permitted up to 3 absences without penalty. More than 3 absences will result in the student’s final grade being lowered by a letter.
- Non-excused absences may be dismissing with proper documentation.
- Absences due to work related and child-care issues are not excused.
- Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student.
- All students are required to attend class on time and to remain in class the entire time.
**Conduct in the Classroom:**
Cell phone use, including text messaging, is not allowed in this class. Turn your cell phone to the silent or off position and put it away.
Food and beverages are not allowed in this auditorium. Do not bring these items with you to class.
Students taking notes on a computer or a tablet must seat within the first 3 rows of the classroom. If you do not agree to the sitting arrangements, you won’t be allowed to use these electronics.
Persistent disruptive behavior, including cell phone use, text messaging, eating or drinking, chatting with others during the lecture, or chronic late arrival or early departure may result in an inquiry conducted through the Office of the Dean of Students, disciplinary action, or failure of this course.

**Conduct During Exams**
The following policy for conduct during exams will be rigorously enforced. Non-compliance could result in an inquiry conducted through the Office of the Dean of Students, failure of the course, or the student being placed on probation.
- Be in your seat, student ID in hand, ready to begin on time.
- No talking or communicating in any manner with another person during the exam.
- Do not refer to study materials during the exam.
- Do not look at another student’s exam.
- No electronics allowed during the exam.

**Late Assignments and Make-up work**
Requests for makeup exams will be granted only with appropriate documentation and by arrangement and approval of the instructor.
A student making a request for a makeup exam must meet one of the following criteria:
- Student is absent due to his/her serious illness or grave illness of his/her child; the makeup request must be accompanied by a doctor’s note. Routine doctor and dentist appointments are not excused.
- Student is absent due to a family emergency or death in the immediate family; documentation of the situation must be provided.
- Student is absent due to participation as a representative of UTEP in an off-campus event, such as an athletic event, debate or field trip. Instructor approval of the absence must be obtained prior to student participation in the event.

Makeups for the first three exams will be given during the scheduled final exam time; they may or may not follow the objective format used for regularly scheduled exams. No makeups will be given for the final exam, no matter what. This is the Art Department policy. No makeups will be given for quizzes. Scheduled assignments are due on time, if late 5 points will be deducted for every day that the assignment is late. Students who cannot commit to the rigors of this course should take it at another time.

**Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail Policies**
Incompletes or I grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious, legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All I grades are given at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department chair.

Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a W. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for their performance in the course.

Art 1300 is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.
Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty Statement
Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to: http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

Disabilities Statement
I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: http://www.utep.edu/dsso
Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY Fax: (915) 747-8712 E-Mail: dss@utep.edu