ART OF THE UNITED STATES

Required Texts:


Course Description:

The catalogue describes this course as follows: “A survey of the major developments in the art of North America from Pre-Columbian times to the modern era.”

This course surveys the traditions of North American Indian Art and then provides a survey of the major developments in American art from the Colonial period to the modern era.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The goals of the course are to make students aware of the history of the art of the United States. The outcomes of the course will include the development of critical thinking skills through the examination of the numerous social and political forces that coalesced to create the different types of art produced during the history of the United States, prior to that time, by its indigenous peoples.

1. Students will gain an understanding of the history of the art of the United States through readings, class participation and attendance in lectures. This knowledge will be measured by test performance and quality of in class reaction papers.

2. Students will write a response paper which will measure their understanding of a number of the complex issues addressed in the history of art of the United States.
Grading:

Your grade will be based upon:
1. Class attendance and participation (10%)
2. Two exams (40%)
3. Final Examination (20%)
4. One typewritten paper (30%)

1. The class attendance and participation grade will be based upon attendance in class, your contributions to class discussion, and the completion of assigned reaction papers. The reaction papers will consist of one to two-page responses to movies shown in class, comparison and contrast assignments, and presentations made by guest speakers. In addition, some assignments may be made that relate to the text. These response papers should be submitted after class via Blackboard 8.

Additional opportunities for extra credit assignments related to local talks and exhibitions will also be presented from time to time throughout the semester.

Attendance in class is **VERY IMPORTANT** since a great deal of visual material is shown in class that is not in the textbook. You will be tested over this material on examinations. More than **TWO** absences will result in the lowering of your grade by one letter grade. Additional absences will result in the lowering of your grade by another letter grade. Two tardies, leaving during class or leaving early will also result in the lowering of your grade by another letter grade in the course.

2. & 3. Exams will consist of slide identifications with comparisons done in essay form. You must identify the works at the top of the page and then discuss them in well organized paragraphs with complete sentences. The essays should broadly encompass the ideas about the different artists, their works of art, the movements that they participated in, and the issues pertaining to Art of the United States. Blue books will **not** be required for these examinations.

Images on disk will be put on reserve in the Media Services area of the Bell Library for study purposes prior to the examinations. Whereas it is not required that you study these images, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you do so, as they will help narrow the focus to a representative number of the images covered in class. In addition, review of the images will help to reinforce the visual learning that needs to take place in this class in order to prepare you to be a practicing artist in the future.

**Other helpful hints for doing well on tests in this course:** I encourage students to form study groups, as I find that learning is reinforced through the sharing of class notes, readings from the text and other outside readings that are brought to group study sessions. I also recommend that you review your class notes on a weekly basis, as this will help you to commit the information to memory. This means you need to be taking notes!
Over the years I have found that grades are higher for students who are actively engaged in note taking during class.

3. The papers of 1000-1500 words each must be typewritten using a double-spaced format. The paper must also contain footnotes and a bibliography that follow the attached guidelines. **Paper topics must be pre-approved by me no later than July 16th.**

**Grading Scale:**

Your final grade for the course will be generated utilizing the four components listed under “Grading” in the percentages indicated.

1. 100-90 point average=A  
2. 89-80 point average=B  
3. 79-70 point average=C  
4. 69-60 point average=D  
5. 59-0 point average=F

**Academic Honesty:**

In accordance with university policy, “University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work).”

(Undergraduate Catalogue)

“Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to the course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic dishonest, and with giving sanction to any student involved.”

(Undergraduate Catalogue)

As outlined in the undergraduate catalogue, the punishment for academic dishonesty can range from a written reprimand to the assigning of an F for the work in question or the class in its entirety. In addition, severe punishment can result in the dismissal of the student from the program or the University.

My recommendation about cheating, is **DON'T** do it. It is not worth it! In my opinion, academic honesty is of the utmost importance. My personal policy is to give you a failing grade in the course if you are caught cheating on an examination or plagiarizing in a paper. My advice to you is to do the best you can on your own. When in doubt about how to reference information from outside sources, please ask my advice. I am more than happy to help you.
Cell phones and laptops:

Cell phones and laptops are NOT permitted in my class. Be sure that you turn off your cell phone prior to coming to class. You are not permitted to text during class or leave class to talk on your cell phone. I will confiscate the cell phone of any student caught using their cell phone during class and will return it at my discretion. You need to concentrate on the images on the screen, so please do not bring your laptop. I have noticed that students on laptops do not ever look up at the slide images, rendering learning almost impossible. This lack of engagement will have a negative impact on your learning in this class.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the
Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. July 29, 2019 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory for your success, will be recorded during each class session and is considered as part of the professionalism element of your final grade.

- You will lose a single letter grade on your third (3) absence.
- Four (4) absences will result in the drop of another letter grade.
- Five (5) absences will result in the failure of the course.
- Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will result in the recording of one (1) full absence.
- Students are required to attend class for the duration of the scheduled time or until the Professor dismisses the class.

NOTE: A great deal of material is covered in this class. It is recommended that the students begin studying the first day of class. This course cannot be passed through last minute studying alone. It is recommended that you do the readings as scheduled and that you begin reviewing the images on your own as soon as possible.
The following is a tentative schedule. It may vary somewhat during the course of the semester, but the readings should be done on time to keep the student up with the course requirements.

7/8     Introduction to class
7/9     Penney, Chapters 1 and 2
7/10    Penney, Chapters 3 and 4
7/11    Penney, Chapters 5 and 6
7/15    Penney, Chapter 7, 8 and 9
7/16    Paper topics must be submitted for approval.
7/17    Examination on North American Indian Art (entire Penney book)
7/18    Lewis, Chapter 1
7/22    Lewis, Chapter 2
7/23    Lewis, Chapter 3
7/24    Lewis, Chapters 4
7/25    Lewis, Chapter 5
7/29    Examination on American Art (Lewis Chapters 1-5)
7/30    Lewis, Chapter 6
7/31    Lewis, Chapter 7
8/1 Lewis, Chapter 8

8/5 PAPERS DUE

8/6 Lewis Chapter 9

8/7 Lewis, Chapter 10

8/8 Review for Final

8/9 FINAL EXAMINATION (Lewis, Chapters 6-10).

Please retain this syllabus, refer to it regularly throughout the semester and follow all deadlines as listed unless otherwise notified during class. You are expected to turn in all work on time and be prepared for all examinations without reminders from me.

In addition, please note that I do not have a grader for most of my classes. Please be patient about receiving your grades.
Form to turn in paper topic

Due:

Name of Student:

Paper Topic:

___Approved _____Not Approved

Comments on papers not approved:

If not approved, please resubmit by .
GRADING GUIDELINES
FOR ART HISTORY PAPERS

Topic turned in after the deadline on the syllabus—10 points will be deducted from grade.

Topic selection is a crucial component to a successful paper. If the image/topic is not approved by me, the student will receive a failing grade. Please visit with me as often as possible during the semester about your papers.

Paper turned in after the due date—10 points per day will be deducted from the grade.

Biographical data in lieu of discussion of stylistic/iconographic concerns-failing grade.

Papers are graded as followed, in addition to the point deductions mentioned above:

Correct length (1000-1500 words) 10 points

Footnotes or endnotes 5 points

Bibliography—minimum of 3-5 books and periodical references (no websites accepted)—will hand out guidelines 5 points

Thesis (main idea development) 20 points

Body (argument-proof of thesis) 50 points

Conclusion 10 points

Please include photocopies of works of art that you are referring to in your paper, particularly of lesser known works of art.
### RUBRIC FOR EVALUATION OF PAPERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Mechanics</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Overall Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Range</strong></td>
<td>very few or no mechanical errors, with complexity</td>
<td>-carefully but subtly organized from beginning to end w/smooth transitions -strong intro and conclusion framing the topic of discussion -paragraphs address one subject with interest</td>
<td>-thesis is specific, focused, purposeful, analytic, and insightful</td>
<td>-supporting details are rich, interesting and full -details are relevant and appropriate -many quotes used smoothly and explained fully with close detail and interpretation</td>
<td>-rich, effective vocabulary -uses a variety of sentence structures, types, and lengths -offers a consistent voice and tone -no structural errors</td>
<td>-fluent -original and insightful -thoughts are critically analytical of the text -ideas show clear understanding of the text</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B Range</strong></td>
<td>few or no mechanical errors, relative to the length or complexity</td>
<td>-organized from beginning to end w/smooth transitions -clear focus -logical order -strong intro and</td>
<td>-thesis is specific, focused, purposeful, and analytic</td>
<td>-details are strong, but lack richness and specificity -details are relevant -quotes are smoothly introduced and</td>
<td>-effective vocabulary -moderately successful in using a variety of sentence patterns -reasonably consistent voice and</td>
<td>-fluent, fully developed -solid -evidence of creative thought -complex ideas, showing you have thought critically</td>
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<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>-some mechanical errors that do not interfere with communication</td>
<td>-focus is unclear or limited</td>
<td>-thesis is present, but vague and difficult to identify</td>
<td>-details are merely listed, repetitious details, too few details, few examples, poorly used</td>
<td>-no sentence variety, serious errors in structure and usage, lacks voice or tone, simplistic vocabulary with incorrect</td>
<td>-poorly developed, lacks clarity, very little independent thinking, plot summary</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>-mechanically correct</td>
<td>-transitions are present, organized, but with lapses in order or structure</td>
<td>-thesis is specific, focused, and purposeful</td>
<td>-details are adequate, many examples used meaningfully and clearly, quotes are introduced, but not smoothly</td>
<td>-acceptable vocabulary, attempts, sophisticated sentence structure, voice and tone are somewhat inconsistent, some errors in structure and usage</td>
<td>-moderately fluent, ideas are developed, but limited in depth, shows independent and analytical thought, ideas are clearly stated</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>-some mechanical errors that interfere with communication</td>
<td>-intro and conclusion are insufficient, poor transitions, lacks closure</td>
<td>-thesis is specific and focused</td>
<td>-details lack elaboration, some details do not support the focus, lacks important details, quotes lack explanation or are not introduced</td>
<td>-simplistic vocabulary, little sentence variety, barely recognizable voice and tone, errors in structure and usage</td>
<td>-thinly developed, some independent thought, repetitive or too general</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>-noticeable mechanical errors that interfere with communication</td>
<td>-unfocused thought patterns are difficult to follow, paragraphs are poorly structured</td>
<td>-thesis is present, but vague and difficult to identify</td>
<td>-details are merely listed, repetitious details, too few details, few examples, poorly used</td>
<td>-no sentence variety, serious errors in structure and usage, lacks voice or tone, simplistic vocabulary with incorrect</td>
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Here are some of the things that you will want to think about when writing your analysis. You do not have to answer all of the questions in each paper. These questions are included here to give you suggestions on how to think about art:

1. Give basic facts about the work:
   - What is the title?
   - When was the work done?
   - Where was the work done?
   - What medium was used?
   - What is the work’s size?

2. What is the subject of the work?

3. What is the purpose of the work?

4. What is the content of the work (what is the artist’s message)?

5. What period or movement does the work belong to?

6. What choices did the artist make concerning the formal elements and principles of design?

7. What does the work of art tell us about the cultural group who made it?

8. What is your response to the piece? How did the artist’s formal choice affect your response?

9. Where and how does the work fit into the history of art?

10. Did the artist use sources—either religious, historical or visual?

11. What do important scholars say about this work?
12. What is the work’s relationship to the worldview at the time it was created: religion, politics, economics, science, mathematics, psychology, sociology and so?

13. How does the work compare to earlier works or to works being done at the time?

14. What was the process of the piece?

15. What is the significance of the piece?

16. Is the work symbolic?