



EAST TEXAS A&M

UNIVERSITY

ART 1301-03W 83501 Art Appreciation

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Josephine Durkin

Office Location: ASL 119 (Art Sculpture Lab)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays by Appointment

Office Phone: 903.886.5208 (Main office)

Email: Josephine.Durkin@etamu.edu

GA: Assel Zhumageldi azhumageldi@leomail.tamuc.edu

Class Information

Fall 2026: 08.20.2026 - 12.11.2026

Credits: 3.00

Meeting times: Online and Asynchronous

Preferred Form of Communication:

Should you have any questions about the assignments, please email BOTH me and our class GA, Assel Zhumageldi, at Josephine.Durkin@etamu.edu and azhumageldi@leomail.tamuc.edu.

Due to specific neurological needs, I've found that communicating with students through text, as a substitute for email, is the best way for me to access, process, and respond to questions.

Should you have questions about points, due dates and grades, please email both me and Assel, so Assel can more quickly respond to your email.

Should you have questions about the content of the assignment, please text me with the same basic format you would use in an email, to 903.268.5081. I usually respond to texts within 24-48 hours after receiving them, although it could take about three days if sent on Friday or the weekend.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Make sure to include your first and last name, as well as the name of the course (Art Appreciation) in your text.

Course Description

This course examines the relationships between the visual arts and other expressions of human imagination and invention. Special attention is given to parallel developments in the histories of ideas, technology, and art.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Gain an understanding of art terminology, the elements of art, and the principles of design.

Methods for assessing this expected outcome: Written assessment, quiz, creative project.

2. Gain an understanding of the processes and materials used in the production of various works of art.

Methods for assessing this expected outcome: written assessment, quiz, creative project.

3. Gain an understanding of the visual arts as an expression of human insight, imagination, and technological achievement.

Methods for assessing this expected outcome: written assessment, quiz, creative project.

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4. Learn how to critically interpret and evaluate works of art.

Methods for assessing this expected outcome: written assessment.

5. Learn the ways in which art reflects or communicates social, political, ideological, and

religious values and constructions.

Methods for assessing this expected outcome: written assessment, quiz.

6. Explain and differentiate creative works as expressions of values within cultural and historical contexts.

Methods for assessing this expected outcome: written assessment, quiz.

7. Learn to recognize the interconnections between art and other expressions of human activity, such as literature, science, economics, music, and theatre.

Methods for assessing this expected outcome: written assessment, quiz, creative project.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using D2L Brightspace learning management system, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint.

Course Instruction Methods and Student Expectations:

This course will require both reading material located in the D2L classroom, weekly reading assignments from the course textbook, and viewing of online videos. Assignments will include writing assignments, creative projects, and quizzes.

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:
The syllabus/schedule are subject to change. 2

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Assessments

Writing Assignments

Creative Projects

Note: Creative projects will comprise less than 15% of your final grade. Students will not be required to purchase specialized art supplies to complete these assignments.

Quizzes/Exams

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance: This is a web-based class that does not meet as a class on a particular day at a specific time. Rather, class material will be posted on D2L each Tuesday and Thursday (at or before 2 p.m.), along with a related assignment. Students will have about a week to complete and turn in each assignment on D2L. Keeping up with assignments and completing them in order is necessary to successfully complete this course.

Academic dishonesty: *Instructors are required to use Turnitin.com for written assessment to help with plagiarism.*

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this class. Be sure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, etc.). Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression in college and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, dismissal from class, expulsion from the University, and a failing grade.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I will communicate with students via email, D2L, phone, Facetime, Zoom and/or YouSeeYou (My Leo / D2L) as needed. Students needing additional guidance in regard to coursework are encouraged to email me so I can answer course questions, or assist by scheduling a phone or video meeting.

Please see the contact information at the beginning of the syllabus regarding appointments and response time.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change. 3

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class material, each with a related assignment, will be posted each Tuesday and Thursday (with the exception of recognized holidays) throughout the semester on D2L. The first day that content with the related assignment will be posted is Tuesday, August 29th. Students will have about a week to access, complete, and turn in each assignment.

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For example, on Tuesday, August 27th (our first class day), the course content will be posted. The relating assignment will be included in this post. Students will have until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3rd to complete and turn in the first assignment that was given on Tuesday, August 27th.

Please check in on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week for new content and assignments. Again, you will have about a week to complete each assignment.

Unless otherwise communicated, this Tuesday and Thursday schedule of posted content, assignments and assignment due dates will continue throughout the semester (with exceptions of holidays).

Specific assignments will be given one-at-a time throughout the semester, as most feed off of the previous assignment. The first lesson and assignment will focus on what art is, why art is important, and what makes something art (as opposed to non-art). This class is designed to be exciting for art and non-art majors. Art has the wonderful ability to change the way people think and feel. It is my hope that each student, regardless of major, gains a greater understanding of, and appreciation for, art with each assignment.

Respect for Diversity

Each student is welcome, and should also feel welcome in this class. Everyone is different, as well as embraced (gender, age, race, orientation, etc.), and offers their unique life experiences, perspectives and histories. This adds to our shared learning environment, as well as the work that we make and discuss! Should you have any concerns, please let me know so I can assist. I want to make sure that each student feels welcome, safe and valued in my class.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Technology Requirements LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Should you have a personal computer issue, please problem solve as needed. This may include reaching out to a friend or family member to borrow a computer, using computers available at the local library or accessible computer labs on campus, accessing wifi at Starbucks or on campus, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor (and the GA).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

University Specific Procedures Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.p df](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students 'Mental Health

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The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel

Department of Art, Health and Safety Guidelines: All students enrolled in face-to-face art courses are required to comply with the procedures and policies of the Department of Art's Health and Safety Guidelines. The Guidelines cover activities in all East Texas A&M art facilities on both the main campus and off-campus sites. Please report any safety issues immediately to your instructor(s), per health and safety guidelines outlined, studio/lab assistant, or the Department of Art, studio technician & health/safety liaison.

https://inside.etamu.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/art/documents/DOA_health_safety_handbook.pdf

Health and Safety Form (to be signed online by all students)

<https://dms.etamu.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>

Please, click on the following link to access East Texas A&M's Covid 19 Information,

<https://new.etamu.edu/coronavirus/>

Course Calendar:

Week 1:

Start by doing it badly! (Jordan Peterson + David Foster Wallace) / creative process

Week 2:

Art and Courage

Handwriting v. Typing (Theodore Roosevelt)

Week 3:

What is art? + Found Objects (Duchamp + Stockholder)

Found Objects + Formal Description of a Found Object

Week 4-5:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Enjoy Nature: The Great Outdoors!

Sunsets and "knolling" (Penelope Umbrico)

Week 6-7:

Staging Silence (Formal Description including Color and Sound)

Guido van der Werve (Nummer acht, everything is going to be alright)

Week 8:

Arthur Ganson + Elizabeth King

Video Review Part 1 + New Assignment

Week 9:

Art and Environmentalism (Natalie Jeremijenko + Mel Chin)

The Power of Anonymity (Part 1: Banksy + The Guerrilla Girls)

Week 10:

The Power of Anonymity (Part II: On Kawara)

Catch-Up Day + (Optional extra credit!)

Week 11-12:

The Power of Beauty (Mind and Environment)

Fashion in Art (Iris Apfel + Nick Cave + Andrea Zittel)

Week 13-14:

Conceptual Art, Love and Loss ([Félix González-Torres](#))

Cardboard Sculpture

Week 15:

Review: Power of Anonymity (+ Conceptual Art + Music)

Final Exam Review and Info

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

End of Semester:

Week 16: Website Project Critiques, Clean-up, Wrap Up