

## Syllabus:

Introduction to Art: Art 101

School of Arts & Sciences

St. Thomas Aquinas College

Dr. Steven Burns, Dean

Textbook: *Responding to Art: Form, Content and Context* by Robert Berson

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*"Through a painting we can see the whole world."* Hans Hoffman

### **Course Description and Purpose:**

Introduction to Art is a historical and cultural overview of the visual arts. Major movements, cultures and concepts will be examined to provide an understanding and awareness of what art is, why it exists and how it affects us. The influence of the aesthetic, philosophic, social and political principles governing artistic expression throughout history will be contextualized and discussed thematically. Emphasis will be placed on understanding artistic artifacts and practices as socially and culturally motivated. Hands-on projects will be incorporated into the curriculum as a means of understanding various artistic styles and techniques while exploring creative expression.

### **The main outcomes designed into the course are:**

1. An understanding that art reflects, records and shapes history and plays a role in every culture
2. A developed ability to describe, analyze and interpret visual images
3. An understanding of the communicative nature of the visual arts
4. An exploration of the functions of representation and creative expression
5. A working knowledge of aesthetic and philosophic principles of artistic production
6. An understanding that the visual arts provide unique ways of knowing oneself and the world

### **Cognitive Skills and Learning Outcomes:**

This course satisfies general education requirements in Liberal Arts as well as Foundation requirements in Fine Arts. As such students will be developing the following skills:

1. Effective communication through reading, writing, presenting and hands-on art projects
2. Critical thinking through essays, hands-on projects, in-class discussions, gallery visits and exam questions
3. Application of research into production

4. The discipline of integrating knowledge, experience, opinion and action
5. The understanding of individual aesthetic value and learning to appreciate difference in the aesthetic values of others

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Class participation: 25%

Class participation in discussions will demonstrate interest and understanding (or intent to understand) the ideas presented (10%). In order to aid comprehension, students will turn in typed outlines of text chapters each Wednesday as part of the day's lesson (15%). Additional article readings will be assigned.

2. Art projects and research papers: 35%

Photography project: 5%

Color project: 5%

Advertising analysis: 5%

Artwork response paper: 10%

Film review: 10%

Tests: 40%

Two tests will be composed of short answer, multiple choice and essay questions. Each test will be worth 20% of the final grade.

***All coursework must be turned into as a hard copy. Assignments will not be accepted in e mail form.***

### **Policies and Grading:**

Students will be required to attend class and take notes, as well as to read assigned chapters in the book. Accreditation requires 9 hours of work per week dedicated to this class in order to receive credit. Since we spend 3 hours in class, this means you are expected to spend an additional 6 hours of outside work on readings and assignments. The work is intensive and absence for whatever reason may seriously affect a student's grades. **More than 9 hours absence from this course may result in an automatic Fail for the class, and no credit will be earned until the course is repeated satisfactorily.** Classes consist of slide-lectures, presentations, gallery visits, hands-on projects and discussion. If an absence is unavoidable, it is the student's responsibility to get the missed lecture notes and assignments from a classmate. Doing homework for another class, catch-up work or other things unrelated to this class is unacceptable. No make-up tests will be given without contacting me prior to the exam and only if you have a medical reason.

**Attendance Policy (please read carefully):**

Attendance is taken seriously and roll will be called at the beginning of each class. There are really no cuts, and I hope you don't miss a day. But should you miss **two** classes, be advised you have violated my attendance policy and your grade will go down a full letter grade. (A to B, B to C etc.) **Missing three class sessions may lead to failing this course.** Missed class or work, due to documented serious illness, accident or emergency will be handled on an individual basis through immediate contact with faculty.

**Punctuality:**

In this class, being there during the first moments of the class is critical. It is then that the lesson is explained and the goals outlined. **Three lates will count as an absence.**

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Academic Integrity, a commitment to honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility, is the foundation of the learning process. All members of the St. Thomas Aquinas College community are held to the highest standards of academic honesty. While we recognize the participatory nature of education, we take academic integrity very seriously, and the College policy on academic dishonesty details consequences that can include dismissal from the College. That policy can be found in both the Student Handbook and the College Catalog.

As a student in this class, you must demonstrate your commitment to academic integrity by submitting work that originates in your own thinking and imagination, your ability to analyze and evaluate information, and your own knowledge, that you have done yourself, and that represents your very best efforts. When appropriate, your work should be supplemented and supported by other sources; however, you must always ensure that these sources are properly cited using the recommended documentation system.

**Academic Disability Statement:**

Students requiring accommodations for a documented disability should notify the instructor before the end of the first week of class.

**College Policy on Electronic Devices in the Classroom:**

Students are not to use any electronic device at any time without the expressed consent of the professor. This policy covers cell phones, laptop computers, or any other device the use of which constitutes a distraction to the professor or to the other students in the class, as determined by the professor. Students with documented disabilities that require the use of a laptop in class may use them after informing their professor.

When a professor designates a time during which laptop computers may be used, they are only to be used at the discretion of the faculty member and in accordance with the mission of the college; visiting sites which the professor deems to be inappropriate to the needs of the class is forbidden. Professors have the latitude to develop specific and reasonable policies to deal with violations of these general policies as they see fit. For more extreme cases of classroom disruption, see the College's Disruptive Student Policy.

### **The Writing/Literature Requirement**

Upon successful completion of these courses, motivated and hard-working students should be able to locate and marshal evidence to document an analytical response to that text; students should, in addition, be able to demonstrate proficiency in the acts of that text; students should, in addition, be able to demonstrate proficiency in the acts of summary, paraphrasing, and direct quotation and to produce written essays that have a clearly articulated thesis, an organized argument, and usage that conforms to the rules of standard written English.

### **School of Arts & Sciences Learning Objectives:**

“Upon the successful completion of this course, motivated and hardworking students should be able to identify and accurately interpret principal forms of artistic expression. In addition, students should be able to identify the creative process that leads to the creation of a work of art.”