

COURSE SYLLABUS

ART 2313: INTRODUCTION TO FINE ARTS

INSTRUCTOR

Shawn Camp
sc58@txstate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introductory course designed to give the student a fundamental understanding of the creation and appreciation of diverse modes of expression through the visual and performing arts.

Note: This course may not be repeated for credit by taking MU 2312, TH 2313, or DAN 2313.

COURSE GOALS

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- explain the basic elements of the visual arts, music, dance, theatre, and literature;
- define key terms within the characteristics of visual art, music, dance, theatre, and literature;
- describe connections between ancient art works and modern works;
- distinguish between the unique aesthetic qualities of one form of art (visual art, music, dance, theatre, and literature) from various cultures;
- compare characteristics of one form of art (visual art, music, dance, theatre, and literature) of a particular historical period or style to another art form of the same period or style; and
- place works of art within a cultural and historical context.

COURSE MATERIALS

Sporre, Dennis J. (2009). *The Creative Impulse: An Introduction to the Arts*. 8th Ed. with music CD. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-603493-3 ISBN-10: 0-13-603493-4

If you purchase a used textbook, be sure the textbook is accompanied by a music CD. You must listen to selections from this CD to complete this course.

ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENTS, AND GRADING

Reading and Listening Assignments: Each lesson requires that you read both the course content and assigned chapters from the textbook. It is important that you read analytically in order to successfully complete the assignments. I suggest that you take notes as you read through the course content and the textbook. When/if you come across a word/term with which you are not familiar, refer to the Key Terms section at the beginning of each textbook chapter as well as the Glossary, which begins on page 614. Additionally, the author of the textbook has provided a summary and supplemental cybersources at the end of each chapter. If you will use these resources, your learning experience will be greatly enhanced.

Additionally, you are required to listen to assigned selections on the audio CD.

Lesson Assignments: At the end of each lesson, you will complete an assignment. Each assignment is comprised of a quiz and essays. Together, the nine assignments comprise 25% of your final grade.

You may submit no more than two assignments (including critical reviews) each week. Use the [Course Study Schedule \(.pdf\)](#) to plan your submissions! Note also that assignments must be submitted in order.

Attendance at Art Events: You are required to attend at least three art events *during your enrollment in this course*. (That is, you may not count an event that you attended prior to your enrollment in this course.) One of these must be a visual arts event, one must be a musical event, and one must be a dance or theater event. Acceptable events include art exhibitions, concerts, plays, and dance performances. Please email me (via the Email link in the left navigation bar) if you are unsure if your event is acceptable. You will be required to submit a scan of your ticket stub or program as proof of attendance. Attendance of events counts for 25% of your final grade.

Critical Reviews: In addition to attending three art events, you are required to write three critical reviews describing and analyzing the three art events you attended. Together, the three critical reviews constitute 25% of your final grade. Specific instructions for and samples of critical reviews can be found in the course content.

Exams: You will be required to take both a midcourse exam and final exam. The exams are composed of objective and essay questions derived from your assignments. Both exams must be proctored. (Information on arranging for a proctor and scheduling the exams is available on the [Correspondence Course Information page \(.pdf\)](#).)

After you have submitted Assignment 4, you may request to take the midcourse exam. However, it is recommended that you wait until Assignment 4 has been returned to you before you take the midcourse exam.

After you have submitted Assignment 9 and Critical Review 3, you may request to take the final exam. However, it is advisable to wait until Assignment 9 is returned to you before you take the final exam. *You must pass the final exam with a score of 60% or better to pass this course.*

Combined, the exams are worth 25% of your final grade.

Grading

All assessments, critical reviews, and exams must be completed before a final grade will be assigned. Assignments must also be submitted in the correct order. They are weighted as follows:

Lesson Assignments (9): 25%

Attendance at Art Events (3): 25%

Critical Reviews (3): 25%

Exams (2): 25%

The following scale will be used to determine final grades:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% or below

COMMUNICATION POLICIES

Communication is very important. I encourage you to contact me personally if you have any concerns, questions, or problems.

Email

The most reliable way to reach me is via the *Email* link in the left navigation bar. (It is important to keep all mail related to this course contained within this TRACS site.) My policy is that during non-holiday breaks or announced away times, I will respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. The Email tool is also the most reliable way for me to reach you. I strongly encourage you to check it and your BobcatMail account regularly. (Note that you can [use the Online Toolkit to forward your BobcatMail account](#) if you'd like.)

If you have a question about course content or mechanics, you are encouraged to post it to the General Course Questions forum (described below). Doing so gives students in the course an opportunity to interact with one another and allows everyone to benefit from answers to your questions. Of course, don't hesitate to email the instructor directly using the Email tool if your concern is of a personal nature.

Forums

You will find several discussion forums in the course, including:

- **General Course Questions:** Post any questions or comments you may have about a topic, assignment, or technical issues to this forum. The instructor will monitor the forum and respond to the questions. In that way, everyone will have the benefit of the question and answer.
- **Share and Tell:** Use this forum to celebrate your personal accomplishments, encourage each other, post inspirational quotes, etc.

The discussion forums are not graded but are for your benefit. My role in the forums is that of a facilitator. I will answer questions, correct misconceptions, and/or redirect conversations as needed.

SCHEDULING YOUR TIME

Remember that as a correspondence student, you are pursuing this study without the structure of on-campus classes and without the discipline of face-to-face contact with the professor. Self-discipline and self-direction are required to successfully complete this course. While you can, to an extent, set your own pace in a correspondence course, it is important that you schedule your time effectively. You should be able to complete each lesson, along with the assignment for it, in two weeks, so completing the course in four to five months is quite possible if you carefully budget your time. Remember, you have a maximum of nine months to complete this course. Use the [Course Study Schedule \(.pdf\)](#) to help you proceed through the course effectively.

TRACS TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Texas State's Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) provides phone and LiveChat technical support for TRACS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. To take advantage of these services, visit [ITAC online](#) or call 512.245.ITAC (4822). Note also that a number of online TRACS tutorials are available from [TRACS Facts](#).

Before beginning this online course, I recommend that you review the minimum hardware and software requirements and other important information available on the ITS [Course Information page](#).

FREE TUTORING RESOURCES

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. All correspondence students have access to several hours of free online tutoring from Smarthinking for subjects ranging from grammar and writing to mathematics and Spanish. Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the Texas State Writing Center. For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning's [Free Tutoring](#) page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\)](#) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library and from the [Math Lab](#) in Derrick 233.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we strive to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking. Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](#), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512.245.3451 (voice/TTY). Students should then notify the [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standard of integrity in all actions related to the academic community.

When you have read and understood all elements of this syllabus, click the *Course Content* link in the left navigation bar and begin proceeding through the content.