ART 1301.060: Introduction to Art
Full Online/Distance Course
Spring 2026
Instructor: Merrie Wright, Professor of Studio Art
Contact: mewright@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11 am – 12:30 pm
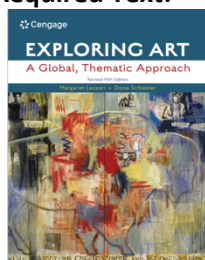
Purpose/Objectives:
This an introductory course that explores the world of art. Students will develop a fundamental knowledge of vocabulary, media, and art techniques that will ultimately inform the observation, classification, and understanding of artwork from various cultures. Through a thematic and cultural approach, students will become familiar with historical and contemporary artists and their artworks. The structure of this class is formed through online video lectures, readings, assignments, group discussions, writing & research assignments, quizzes, and exams via Canvas. Although this course is entirely online, it is important that a positive learning environment and community are established. As a result, students will not only value the opinions of peers but also develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the arts.

This course has no prerequisite requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Critical thinking: Students will learn to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication: Students will learn how to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Teamwork: Students will examine works of art as a group which includes the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
4. Social Responsibility: includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Required Text:

Exploring Art: A Global, Thematic Approach, Revised | 5th Edition
Margaret Lazzari/Dona Schlesier
ISBN: 9781337709910

Available as a book through the University Bookstore (or other book sellers) or as an eTextbook through Cengage Learning: https://www.cengage.com/c/new-edition/9781337709910/

There is a copy of the textbook available to check out for two hours at a time at the UT Tyler Muntz Library (main campus) Reserves Desk/Circulation Desk.

Course Calendar & Weekly Activities to be Completed:
A course calendar is provided on Canvas. This is a five-week summer session. As such, this course is very fast paced. Weekly module(s) will only be open for the week assigned. It is extremely important that you begin the activities to be completed for the weekly module(s) on the first day each week and complete all weekly requirements by 11:59 pm on the last day of the week. Please see the course calendar, which includes a list of activities to be completed each week, for deadlines for all assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Attendance Policy:
This is an online course. Your attendance is based on your participation and completion of course content, including readings and video lectures, assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Email Etiquette:
I will check and respond to emails during the work week, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 5 pm. I will do my best to answer promptly. Please allow 24 hours for a response. You can email directly from your Patriot account or through Canvas via *Inbox* feature. If you contact me through email, please use formal email etiquette.

- Use only your UT Tyler Patriot e-mail address.
- Check the Syllabus, Course Calendar, or assignment instructions on Canvas before sending the e-mail. *(Reading these materials can answer most questions.)*
- Include a subject. If there is no subject, the email will be classified as spam.
- Do not use slang/text-message language in the email as they can create misunderstandings.
- Do not *comment* on a specific assignment, quiz, or exam within Canvas because it will not be responded to. If you have a question or concern, directly contact the instructor via appropriate avenues listed above.
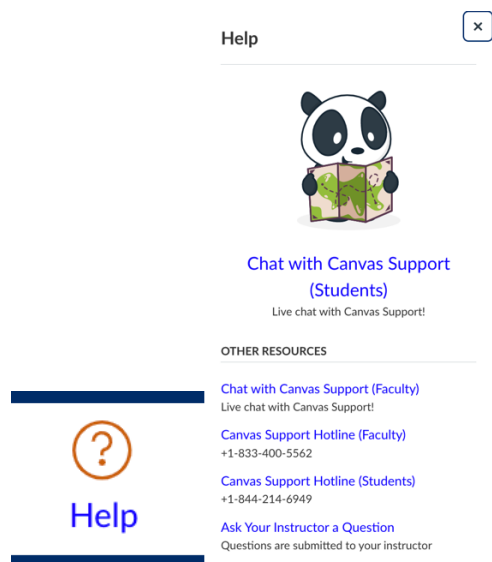
Canvas:
All materials required to complete this course are available through Canvas. Students are expected to maintain a level of professionalism and respect for the instructor, classmates, and course content.

- Make sure you are able to login to the course on Canvas using your UT Tyler username and password.
- Familiarize yourself with our course content on Canvas.

Technical Support:
Canvas offers 24/7 Support on your Student Canvas Dashboard under the *Help* icon, where you will find a list of various support options:

*If you have trouble logging into Canvas, contact UT Tyler IT Support:

- Off Campus - (903) 565-5555
- On Campus - Ext. 5555
- itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu

Technology Requirements:
Minimum Technology Requirements: Students will need access to a computer with a high-speed internet connection, Canvas, and a cell phone with a camera or digital camera to complete the course requirements.

Important: IP and hardware problems are not excuses for missing deadlines and submission of assignments. Students can access Canvas on the UT Tyler campus in the Computer Lab and Library.

Minimum Student Skills: This course utilizes digital resources on Canvas. Students must know how to use Microsoft Word and Canvas. Students must be able to download and upload complete files (.jpeg, .doc, .docx, .mhtml, and/or .pdf)

with text and images, attach documents to emails, download and upload documents to the submission for assignments, and access content via links provided within Canvas. Please note that only the following file types will be accepted for assignment submissions: .jpeg, .doc, .docx, or .pdf. Be aware that not all functions of your Canvas course may be available on smartphones or tablets. You must have a computer and know the software to complete the course.

Course Content:
During this course, students may encounter work or topics they feel are offensive. Students are allowed to be offended, but they do not have the right to violate the instructor's or fellow students' right to freedom of speech. Furthermore, being offended is not an acceptable reason to fail to perform the work of the class.

Course Etiquette:
Be polite, professional, and respectful with online comments. This does not mean that students cannot disagree with one another or challenge each other's ideas. Debate is encouraged but students should treat each other with respect. No insults or name calling! Students should use evidence, facts, and logic to support their assertions.

Readings and Open Book Quizzes:
Readings and open book quizzes are designed to ensure comprehension of course content and help in preparation for assignments and exams. Quizzes are due by 11:59 p.m. the week they are assigned. Students will have 3 hours to complete each Reading & Open-book Quiz.

Weekly Assignments:
There will be a variety of assignments to complete each week, including lectures, discussions, art experiences, and more. Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. at the end of the week they are assigned.

Teamwork Assignment:
There will be one teamwork assignment, part of which will be collaborative. The collaborative portion of the assignment will be completed online using the Project Groups and Discussions tools in Canvas. Each student will receive an individual grade that reflects their contribution to the assignment. An overview of the Teamwork Assignment and due dates is provided in the Research Assignment module.

Research Assignment:
There will be one research assignment. The Research Assignment is broken down into several parts. An overview of the Research Assignment and due dates is provided in the Research Assignment module.

Exams:
There will be one comprehensive exam in the final week of the course. This exam will be comprised of true/false, multiple choice, multiple answer, and matching questions. Exams will cover vocabulary and concepts covered in the readings and open-book quizzes, lectures, and assignments. There will be absolutely no late submissions, make-up, or re-takes of the exam.

Late Submission policy:
Late assignments, quizzes, and exams will not be accepted. All assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the assigned due dates.

Final Grade:
Your final grade for the course will be based upon completion of the following:

- 55% Weekly assignments, including open-book quizzes, lectures, weekly assignments, and art experiences (5 points each, 185 points total)
- 15% Teamwork Assignment (50 points total)
- 15% Research Assignment (50 points total)
- 15% Comprehensive Exam (50 points total)

Numeric to Letter Grade Translation:

100 - 90% = A   89 - 80% = B   79 - 70% = C   69 - 60% = D   59 - 0% = F

Remember, *Teachers do not give grades; students earn them!*

Additional information in regard to grades and course requirements:
- o   Non-adherence to deadlines will result in a lowered grade.
- o   Failure to participate or complete all required course content will result in a lowered grade
- o   Failing to follow the Netiquette guidelines in any aspect of this course will result in an F in the class irrespective of the grade achieved in exams or other assignments in the course.

Academic Integrity:

All cheating and/or plagiarism will be treated with the utmost severity as per UT Tyler policy. Please consult A Student Guide to Conduct and Discipline at UT Tyler (available in the Office of Student Affairs) for university regulations regarding academic dishonesty: "3.22 Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
- • copying from another student's test paper;
- • using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- • failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- • possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- • using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- • collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- • discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- • divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- • substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- • paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- • falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- • taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- • misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software. Students must always cite their sources. Copying any material from a book, newspaper, journal, website, or any printed source without citing the source is considered plagiarism. Students must not under any circumstances simply copy any material

word for word or copy and paste the material. Even copying one sentence is unacceptable. Sources must be cited.
**DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. ANYONE CAUGHT PLAGIARIZING WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A ZERO (0) FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.
** If students use AI generated text or paraphrases another individual's words or idea, this must be cited or it is considered plagiarism. The paraphrased material does not need to be in quotation marks, but the author and source must be properly cited.
** See specific university and course policy related to artificial intelligence (AI) below.

Artificial Intelligence Policy:
UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. *For this course, AI is permitted only when listed as a requirement on a specific assignment.*

Student Resources and University Policies:
Please see the Getting Started & UTT Syllabus module in Canvas for a full list of student resources and university policies.

Note:
This syllabus and all matters associated with this course are subject to change at the professor's discretion. Please see UT Tyler's Academic Calendar for all important academic deadlines and dates. Please see the course calendar for important dates for assignments, quizzes, and exams. There are no required fieldtrips for this course.