

ARTH 1010-80: Understanding Art
Online/Distance Learning

Winter 2012

Professor

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****Syllabus and other course information available on Blackboard (bb.wpunj.edu)****

Course description: A course for non-art majors addressing selected issues in the visual arts. Emphasis is placed on visual literacy, teaching students how to speak, write, and think about art. Course content may address a variety of historical periods and visual media, including painting, sculpture, architecture, graphic arts, photography, and film.

****Please note: this class involves a minimum of one museum or gallery visit.**

Course Objectives:

- To engage students in active viewing and critical discussion about visual media, using both the vocabulary and concepts of the discipline.
- To introduce students to basic themes in the study of human artistic production and reception.
- To teach students to speak and write clearly and eloquently on any topic, using the visual arts as a means to that end.

This course is conducted online, utilizing Blackboard, so you **MUST** be familiar with the basics of that application. You must also regularly check your **WPU email accounts**, as that will be the primary means of communication.

This class will be asynchronous, meaning that you will complete assignments at your own pace and upload them by the given deadlines. **Specific due-dates and times are listed below.**

Required Textbook:

Lois Fichner-Rathus, *Understanding Art*, 10th edition (Boston: Wadsworth, 2007). ISBN: 978-1-111-83695-5.

Grading: 100 Points total

- **Assignments**: 70 points. Each Assignment has a designated point value, and they are due by the dates indicated below. Written descriptions of each assignment are posted under the Assignments Tab on Blackboard.

****NOTE:**

- **All assignments (including WEEK 1 and the Final Project) are due by 11:59 PM (Midnight) EST of each Thursday. EX:**
The assignment for Week 1 must be uploaded to Blackboard by 11:59 PM EST on Thursday 12/27/12. ½ point per day will be deducted for late assignments.
- **Final Project**: 30 points. (5-7 pages, double spaced, 12 pt. type, see full description on Blackboard)

Procedures: All assignments should be submitted as attached MS Word files (**DO NOT use Pages or other software**). Files should be named in the following way: the first 5 letters of the student's last name, dot, the course number, dot, section number, dot, the number of the week in which the assignment was given. **EX: Willi.ARTH1010.80.1.** This example reflects a student with the last name Williams, submitting for this course (ARTH 1010, section 80), the assignment due in the first week of class. ****PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT** use any special symbols (e.g., !, @, #, \$, %, ^, &, *, (,). Blackboard will not recognize the file, and **if I cannot open the file, the assignment will not be counted as complete.**

****PLEASE NOTE: EXTERNAL LINKS TO WEBSITES AND VIDEOS WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD. VIDEOS FOR THE COURSE ARE ALSO FEATURED AS A PLAYLIST CALLED *UNDERSTANDING ART ON MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL:* <http://www.youtube.com/user/ProfessorWilliams71>**

Disabilities Statement: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning or other kinds of disabilities, please feel free to email me regarding your concerns.

****Academic Integrity: PLEASE NOTE! You will receive an F on anything you turn in that is plagiarized in any way.** William Paterson's Undergraduate Course Catalog defines plagiarism as "the copying from a book, article, notebook, video, or other source material, whether published or unpublished, without proper credit through the use of quotation marks, footnotes, and other customary means of identifying sources, or passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, programs, and experiments of another,

whether or not such actions are intentional or unintentional.”¹ Intentional plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment, failure of the course, and possible disciplinary action by the University.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1 (12/26): Introduction: What are the goals and procedures of this course?

- Reading: *Understanding Art*, Chapter 1, “What is Art?”
- Activities:
 - Log on to Blackboard
 - Read the course introduction letter
 - Download and print a copy of the syllabus
- Assignments (**DUE BY 11:59 PM ON 12/27/12**):
 - Write a short personal introduction (max 1 page) including the following information: (**2 points**)
 - your name
 - your major
 - how long you have been at WPU and whether or not you are a transfer student
 - your experiences with art and art history (i.e., have you taken other classes? Do you make art? Do you like to visit museums or galleries? Are you considering art or art history as a major?)
 - your observations and questions about the chapter, “What is Art?”
 - Complete the Vocabulary Worksheet (**3 points, DUE BY 11:59 PM ON 12/27/12**) ****NB: You may use Chapter 2, “Visual Elements of Art” to complete the worksheet.****

WEEK 2 (12/31/12-1/4/13): The Language of Art, Media, and Methods

- Reading: *Understanding Art*, Chapter 2, “Visual Elements of Art,” Chapter 4, “Style, Form, and Content,” Chapter 6, “Painting,” Chapter 9, “Sculpture”
- Activities:
 - Monday: Logon to Course Mate for the textbook, select Chapter 2, and complete the Writing About Art quiz.
 - Tuesday: View *How to Look at Art—The Elements of Art* on YouTube.

¹ *Undergraduate Catalog 2003-2005* (Wayne, NJ: William Paterson University, 2003), 46.

- Wednesday: View *WAYS OF SEEING* (first episode) 1/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. **THIS VIDEO IS SEGMENTED INTO FOUR PARTS. BE SURE TO WATCH ALL FOUR OF THEM!**
- Assignments:
 - Tuesday:
 - Complete the Collage Assignment (**10 points**)
 - Post a photo of your collage to the **Collage Photos Forum on the Discussion Board on Blackboard** ****NB: PLEASE UPLOAD THE FILE AS A JPG IF POSSIBLE, AND USE THE SAME NAMING FORMAT AS YOU WOULD FOR AN ASSIGNMENT **(2 points)**
 - Wednesday:
 - Choose one of your classmates' collages from the **Collage Photos Forum on the Discussion Board on Blackboard** and complete the **Collage Worksheet (3 points)**
 - Thursday:
 - Write a two-page description of a classmate's collage. (See the posted description under **Assignments: CollagePart2** on Blackboard.) (**15 points, DUE BY 11:59 PM on 1/3/13**)
 - Friday:
 - Begin next week's readings

WEEK 3 (1/7/13-1/11/13): Art Through the Ages

- Reading: *Understanding Art*, Chapter 14, "Classic Art: Greece and Rome," Chapter 16, "The Renaissance," Chapter 18, "Non-Western Perspectives," Chapter 19, "Modern Art," Chapter 20, "The Twentieth Century: The Early Years," Chapter 21, "The Twentieth Century: Post-War to Postmodern," and Chapter 22, "Art in the Twenty-First Century: A Global Perspective"
- Activities:
 - Monday: Complete the Slide Quiz for Chapter 14
 - Tuesday: Complete the Compare and Contrast Activity for Chapter 16
 - Wednesday: View *African Art: The Masks of the Gnoumou Family in Boni* on You Tube
- Assignments:
 - Thursday: Choose any image from the textbook and complete the Description Assignment. (**25 points, DUE BY 11:59 PM on Thursday 1/10/13**)
 - **Friday: Visit a museum or gallery to begin your final project** (see Final Project description under Assignments on Blackboard)

WEEK 4 (1/14): FINAL PROJECT DUE BY 11:59 PM on Monday 1/14/13. (40 POINTS)