



ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY

School of Humanities

Understanding & Appreciating the Arts Syllabus

Fall 2015

Cultural Foundations

CULF 1319

TR 9:30-10:45, and TR 11-12:15

Library 141

Course Description:

Welcome to *Understanding and Appreciating the Arts*, a unique introduction to the arts designed by the St. Edward's University faculty as part of your General Education Cultural Foundation requirement. The purpose of this course is to help develop critical thought necessary for evaluating and appreciating art and its role in our culture. The course will survey art that is made from prehistoric time up to the contemporary period and will equip the student with a visual language and introduce them to the visual components of style. **Students will be researching contemporary artists, conducting physical and virtual interviews with them and will be learning to work collaboratively.** The format of our meetings will vary between lectures with in-class activities, visits to an art gallery or museum, and presentations by visiting artists. Thursday will be our studio day with a few exceptions.

Objectives:

This is both a lecture and a participatory course. You will be asked to demonstrate your ability to communicate orally and in writing as well as complete weekly creative assignments. You will also be required to attend shows, lectures, concerts, and exhibitions both on and off campus.

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes:

- Forming your own opinion about a work of art
- Using descriptive and analytical vocabulary in discussing art
- Gaining a greater understanding of the purpose of art and its cultural significance in society
- Having a better understanding of the artistic process through the completion of various projects
- Learning to work collaboratively
- Learning how to navigate through networking, connections and personal interviews

Course Requirements + Grading:

1. You will be assigned two (2) Response Papers over the course of the semester. Details regarding the structure and content of these papers will be discussed more as we get further into the semester. The first paper will be to a piece of visual art observed at a gallery or museum. The second one will be a response to a presentation by one of the visiting lecturers.
2. **You will work in a group in researching a guest lecturer, preparing an introduction, questions, and conducting a personal interview with him/her. Your group will be responsible for writing an abstract of the lecture and providing metatags for this lecture on St. Edward's Youtube channel.**
3. All of your creative assignments will be due the Tuesday after studio class. In case Thursday studio class coincides with a gallery visit or artist's lecture, you are responsible to work on your assignments at home and turn it in the following class. If you must miss

class that day, please email me a photo or some kind of documentation of what you did before the class.

4. There will be a Collaborative Assignment Presentation and a Final Critique during which you will have a chance to present and discuss your artwork.
5. Quizzes (4 total) will be given periodically to ensure that you keep up with readings and discussions and understand the concepts presented.
6. Attendance and Participation is a key part of this course and will count toward your final grade. You are expected to participate fully in class discussions and critiques of both your own work and other students' work. You are likewise expected to attend all scheduled classes and to arrive on time prepared to work for the full duration of the class. More than three (3) absences will lower your final grade by one-half letter grade.

(Please note: genuine emergencies, such as a death in the family, will be handled separately. Should a genuine emergency arise please contact me promptly, so we can make appropriate arrangements. If you miss class due to sickness, please bring doctor's note.)

7. The **syllabus** is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping up with any changes in the syllabus.

8. **Grading Breakdown**

Percentages of your semester grade:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Response Papers | 20% |
| Quizzes | 20% |
| Creative Assignments | 20% |
| Visiting Lecturer Assignment | 20% |
| Final Project Presentation | 20% |

Grading Scale:

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
| A | 91-100 | Outstanding work that exceeds the requirements of the course |
| B | 81-90 | Good work exceeding the minimum requirements for the course |
| C | 71-80 | Average work, meeting all of the course requirement |
| D | 61-70 | Below average work, meeting less than all of the course requirements |
| F | <61 | Late or incomplete work, lack of understanding of subject, lack of motivation |

| GRADE | POINTS |
|-------|--------|
| A+ | 4.0 |
| A | 4.0 |
| A- | 3.67 |
| B+ | 3.33 |
| B | 3.0 |
| B- | 2.67 |
| C+ | 2.33 |
| C | 2.0 |
| D | 1.0 |
| F | 0.0 |

9. **Make-Up or Late Work:**

Late work will not be accepted and no extensions will be granted except in the most dire of circumstances. You are responsible for getting work turned in on the date that it is due.

10. **Academic Integrity:**
The St. Edward's University Undergraduate Bulletin and the Student Handbook state that a student who is dishonest in any work may receive the maximum penalty of a mark of F for that course. Withdrawal from a course is not allowed when an F in the course for academic dishonesty has been imposed. Students caught committing academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to the full range of penalties as described in the Undergraduate Bulletin and in the Student Handbook.
11. **Special Accommodations:**
Student Disability Services coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities (medical, learning or psychological). Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should follow the university's accommodation procedure by contacting Student Disability Services ([512-448-8561](tel:512-448-8561) or Moody Hall 155).
12. If you need to contact me, the best way to reach me is via email, ylanina@stedwards.edu. My office hour is on Thursday, 12.15-1pm at Andre Hall 318. I will also be available to meet before or after the class.
13. Cell Phones, headsets and ear buds may not be used during class except if needed for creative assignments purposes.

Required Materials

1. One sketch book (9"x11" or similar)
2. Drawing/writing materials (pen, pencil, eraser, colored pencils or markers)
3. Miscellaneous materials as needed for creative projects

Visiting Lecturers:

Laurie Frick (data artist) - September 15
Dana Younger (sculptor) - October 20
Susan Scafati (photographer) - November 3
Fred Hatt (multi-media artist) - November 17
Yevgeniy Sharlat (composer) - December 1

Visiting Lecturer Assignment

1. Research the guests in advance and prepare questions and topics for discussion. Give short introduction to the artist at the beginning. Lead the discussion.
2. Write abstracts of the lectures and provide metadata (tags) for the content covered so that the recordings may be more easily reused.
3. Supply related links and materials for each lecture based on your research and your conversation with the artist.
4. Write a short essay about your experience. What have you learned?
5. Compile a list of other artists you would like to have guest lecture through your own online research.