



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

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INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Professor: Michael Mauro, MFA
- Email: maurom@nwfsc.edu
- Phone: N/A
- Office Hours: Online, by email appointment
- Office Location (Campus/Building/Room): Niceville Campus, Marie Snow Greene Visual Arts Building, Room 511

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

I encourage all students to maintain healthy communication with me during the semester. My email is the most effective way to ensure your concerns and updates are heard and acknowledged. It's highly recommended you connect your phone to your school email and ensure notifications are enabled. Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your college email regularly for any class and College notifications. For class policies, technical difficulties or any additional information please refer to the college handbook or website.

COURSE INFORMATION

- Course Name and Number: Art History 1000
- Class Location (Campus/Building/Room): Online
- Class Modality: Asynchronous
- Class Days: Self-Paced
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam Presentation: March 3rd, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Art Appreciation (ARH) 1000, CRN 20024, 3 credits. This course offers a study in the basic concepts of art, including function, style and structure with emphasis on the interaction of medium and meaning and problems of art criticism. Student performance is measured by the ability to critique, itemize, and analyze relevant artworks from the weekly readings and peer essays with respect to deadlines as listed in the Canvas course shell.

COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will identify, describe and apply terms, concepts, and methods used in the discipline of Art History to works of visual art and material culture.
- Students will share their insights to works relatable by cultural context, personal visions and inspiration, or by impetus towards career goals.

- Students will analyze works of visual art and material culture by way of individual research using scholarly sources (NWFSC Campus Library, Jstor.org, etc.).
- Students will compose an analytical response to works of visual art and material culture in the works cultural context.

COURSE PREREQUISITES – N/A

COURSE MATERIALS

GATEWAYS TO ART, DEWITTE

EDITION: 4th Edition

PUBLISHER: Thames & Hudson

ISBN-10 : 0500845069

ISBN-13 : 978-0500845066

COURSE SUMMARY AND ASSIGNMENTS

For due dates and essay guidelines, refer to your online course shell under the “Assignments” tab.

Week 1: Part 1 - Fundamentals

Art is a form of visual language, and much as we use vocabulary and grammar to communicate verbally, artists use a visual vocabulary (the elements of art) and rules similar to grammar (the principles of art). When we study an artwork, we can use the same elements and principles to analyze the work: a process called visual analysis. In this part you will learn about the elements and principles, and will be shown how to apply them in a visual analysis. You will also learn how to use two other concepts when you analyze a work of art: style and content.

Preface

Introduction

1. 1.1 Line, Shape, and the Principle of Contrast
2. 1.2 Form, Volume, Mass, and Texture
3. 1.3 Implied Depth: Value and Space

ASSIGNMENT: 1. “Visual Analysis and Articulation” Short Essay

2. Watch “National Film Board of Canada - M.C.Escher Sky and Water 1” and Discussion

Week 2: Part 1 - Fundamentals

4. 1.4 Color
5. 1.5 Motion and Time
6. 1.6 Unity, Variety, and Balance
7. 1.7 Scale and Proportion
8. 1.8 Focal Point and Emphasis
9. 1.9 Pattern and Rhythm
10. 1.10 Engaging with Form and Content

ASSIGNMENT: 1. “Elements and Process” Short Essay

2. Discussion Board and Commentary

Week 3: Part 2 – Media and Processes

Art is a form of visual communication: artists make art because they want to express something. Just as writers consider carefully the form that best expresses what they want to say (a long novel, a brief poem, a play or film script, for example), artists consider carefully the materials and processes available to communicate their visual ideas. In fact, art can be made from almost anything: one contemporary artist has used elephant dung in his paintings. There are certain media and processes that have been commonly used by artists, some of them for thousands of years, but others that have been developed more recently. In this part you will learn how most of the art that you will encounter has been made.

1. 2.1 Drawing
2. 2.2 Painting
3. 2.3 Printmaking
4. 2.4 Sculpture
5. 2.5 Architecture

ASSIGNMENT: 1. "Your Medium, Your Choice!" Short Essay
2. Discussion Board and Commentary
3. Watch "Balance - Animated Short Film (1989)" and Discussion

Week 4: Part 2 – Media and Processes

6. 2.6 The Tradition of Craft
7. 2.7 Visual Communication Design
8. 2.8 Photography
9. 2.9 Film/Video and Digital Art
10. 2.10 Alternative Media and Processes

ASSIGNMENT: 1. "Pop Culture, an Introspective" Short Essay
2. Discussion Board and Commentary
3. Watch "Shroud Falls - Animated Short Film (2026)" and Discussion

Week 5: Part 3 – History and Context

The history of art is an important aspect of the many ways in which we can understand a work. Art is not just the skillful application of design concepts and materials to produce an impressive work. Inevitably, an artwork is influenced by the time and place in which it was created. This influence is known as the context in which the art was made. In this part, as well as learning about context, you will discover how history has influenced art and how art, in turn, reflects history.

1. 3.1 Art of the Prehistoric and Ancient Mediterranean
2. 3.2 Art of the Middle Ages
3. 3.3 Art of India, China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia
4. 3.4 Art of the Americas
5. 3.5 Art of Africa and the Pacific Islands

ASSIGNMENT: 1. "Culture, an Artistic Purpose" Short Essay
2. Discussion Board and Commentary

Week 6: Part 3 – History and Context

6. 3.6 Art of Renaissance and Baroque Europe (1400–1750)
7. 3.7 Art of Europe and America (1700–1865): Rococo to Romanticism
8. 3.8 The Modern Aesthetic: Realism to Fin de Siècle
9. 3.9 Late Modern and Early Contemporary Art in the Twentieth Century

10. 3.10 The Late Twentieth Century and Art of the Present Day

ASSIGNMENT: 1. Watch "POILUS - CGI 3D Animation Short Film" and Discussion

Week 7: Part 4 - Themes

Artworks reveal the concerns of humanity. Throughout the world, similar issues, or themes, are explored by artists. By comparing artworks in terms of their meaning, we come closer to understanding the uniqueness of different cultures and artists. Exploring topics commonly addressed by artists throughout space and time, and through a variety of methods and materials, also makes us more aware of shared concerns. Artworks deal with belief systems, survival, the natural world, and technology; and with issues related to status, power, and identity. By studying art in this way we can better understand various cultures and ourselves.

1. 4.1 Art and the Community
2. 4.2 Spirituality and Art
3. 4.3 The Cycle of Life: Nature and Time
4. 4.4 Art, Science, and Mathematics
5. 4.5 Art of Political Leaders and Rulers
6. 4.6 Art, War, and Healing

ASSIGNMENT: 1. "Informed Responses, Art for Healing" Short Essay
2. Discussion Board and Commentary

Week 8: Part 4 – Themes

7. 4.7 Art of Protest and Social Conscience
8. 4.8 The Body in Art
9. 4.9 Identity, Race, and Gender in Art

FINAL ASSIGNMENT: 1. "Exploring Aesthetics, a Joyful Eye" Final Exam
2. Final Exam Power Point Presentation

Grading Scheme

Grade	Range
A	90 – 100 %
B	80 – 89 %
C	70 – 79 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	59 and less %

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the [college catalog](#). Several essential policies are provided below with the corresponding link to the full policy for your review.

NWFSC POLICY	DESCRIPTION
Academic Integrity	<p>Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. This includes the use of generative AI tools. Using genAI in any form to substantially complete an assessment is prohibited, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor.</p> <p>Any time the instructor suspects there is a violation of Academic Integrity or there is a reported Academic Integrity Incident, the instructor is required to investigate it as outlined in the Academic Integrity section of the handbook (linked to the left). The instructor will provide information to the student about the procedure, the complaint, the findings, and any consequence imposed.</p> <p>Students are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students' learning environments.</p>
Accommodations	<p>The Accommodation Resource Center at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.</p>
Attendance	<p>Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected. All students should adhere to the College calendar. For dual enrolled students, high school holidays may not be College holidays.</p>
Tutoring Services	<p>Tutoring services are available in person and online.</p>
Counseling Services	<p>All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.</p>
Student Code of Conduct	<p>Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
Student Complaints	<p>NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.</p>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students should review the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Handbook to understand their role as a student.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY FOR ONLINE COURSES

This course is entirely online. Students must provide their device(s) to access and complete this class online. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving emails with attachments, students will be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at online@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6464.

EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY TOOLS

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, students consent to upload their papers to Turnitin, where they will be checked for plagiarism. Papers submitted to Turnitin may be saved as source documents within these databases to detect plagiarism in other papers. Please note: All assignments submitted in this course are analyzed for plagiarism and originality.

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

WELCOME TO CLASS

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!