

## ***Welcome to ART 100: Introduction to Art!***

### *Catalog Description of the Course:*

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An introductory art orientation course dealing with the philosophy of art, language of design, aesthetics, art criticism, and a basic understanding of the Western and Non-Western artistic heritage. Offered on a Quad basis. Fulfills the G.E. requirement for "Seeking Cultural Perspectives".

### ***Could this course really matter?***

Art is part of our daily lives. We are surrounded by it in the architecture of our environments, the design of websites, the images we hang on our walls and unassuming works embedded in public places. Every day we make aesthetic choices and judgments, from getting dressed to choosing font styles and colors in our writing. *This course is designed to cultivate your visual literacy and its practical application.*

By the end of this course, you can make informed aesthetic decisions and judgments that affect the way you live. You don't need to be an art historian or an artist to appreciate and understand art. Armed with the skills developed in this course, *you will be able to analyze any work of art and derive meaning from it.*

True to PLNU's mission of educating the whole person, this course aims to nurture your intellectual growth as well as your spiritual growth. Together

we will explore how art can connect us to the great world around us, to one another and to the majesty of God. I look forward to accompanying you on this five week journey, learning with and from you and witnessing your communal, intellectual and spiritual growth.

### ***General Course Learning Objectives***

- Identify and discuss a variety of artistic movements and time periods (from prehistoric to modern), styles, techniques, conceptual issues and traditions related to the history of art (includes Non-Western).
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design.
- Think and write critically about visual art, making intelligent and informed analyses and interpretations of works of art using appropriate terminology.

### ***The Nature of Our Course Content***

The subjects and material covered in this course are presented as objectively as possible and reflect the beliefs and practices of humans over thousands of years and many, many cultures. While we may not individually or collectively endorse certain beliefs, practices or representations reflected in art, much can be gained from learning about different perspectives. This course, one of PLNU's General Education electives for fulfilling Requirement V, Seeking Cultural Perspectives, is intended to "develop a critical appreciation of human expression" in

students. If you are concerned with a particular content area, please contact me directly and we will discuss your concerns.

### *TEXTBOOK*

#### **Gateways to Art: Understanding the Visual Arts**

Debra J. DeWitte, Ralph M. Larmann, and M. Kathryn Shields

Thames & Hudson, 2011.

You may purchase this book through the PLNU bookstore or online elsewhere.

**Ebook** An e-book version of this book is available at [www.NortonEbooks.com](http://www.NortonEbooks.com). Available online or as a download. ISBN: 0500289565 ISBN-13: 9780500289563

The course content and assignments are structured by week. Not all weeks are thematically cohesive due to time constraints but most weeks are unified by a general topic.

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You are expected to read your text as it corresponds to the course content. Reading expectations are indicated in the weekly section overviews.

### *Course Structure*

The course content and assignments are structured by week. Not all weeks are thematically cohesive due to time constraints but most weeks are unified by a general topic.

## Grading

### This course includes a variety of assignments:

- **Formative**, meaning that you are learning material while completing the assignment. The majority of assignments in our course are formative. There may be more assignments in our course than in a face-to-face course due to the fact that this is the only indicator I have to measure your learning. Though these assignments are worth less points individually than the summative assignments are individually, they comprise a significant percentage of your final grade.
- **Summative** - these assess your ability to apply what you have learned. Each module contains a summative assignment that allows you to apply what you have learned. This course is not traditional in the sense that there is no mid-term or final exam.
- **Group and Individual** - Most of your grade will be derived from assignments that you create on your own. However, there are several collaborative assignments that will result in a group grade. Ideally, you will all pull your own weight. At times, there are strategies to ensure that I see each person's individual contribution, such as initials behind your commentary in a chart. Different students will have different strengths and your job as a group is to wield those strengths for the good of the group
- **Learning Styles and Media** - one of the great things about online learning is the ability to use technology to cater to a variety of learning styles. This course is intended to be interactive in every aspect and the media with which you are interacting both for

learning content and creating it for assignments is extremely varied. During this course, you will be able to learn content through: watching, listening, actively participating, creating, writing and much more. When possible, I have provided you with the opportunity to turn in assignments that reflect your individual style and strengths.

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**The points possible for each assignment are listed in the course schedule. I will follow the traditional grading scale and award final grades as follows:**

A+=98-100%; A=93-97%; A-=90-92%; B+=88-89%; B=83-87%; B-=80-82%; C+=78-79%; C=73-77%; C-=70-72%; D+=68-69%; D=63-67%; D-=60-62%; F=59% and lower

### ***Expectations***

*What I can expect from you*

**Time Commitment:** This course will require approximately 75 hours of your time over the next 8 weeks. If you do not have at least 10 hours / week to devote to this course, please drop the course as soon as possible as there is a waitlist of students who wish to enroll. There are multiple assignments due each week, and sometimes days the assignments are due on two different days within a week. You are expected to log into Canvas Monday through Friday to learn course material, participate in

activities and discussions, to submit assignments, and to check your email daily for announcements.

**Group Work:** In order to build a sense of community, to lighten your load, and to provide you with the opportunity to learn from one another, many assignments for the course involve group work. There are lots of synchronous (for example, Google Hangout and Chat, calling, and texting) as well as asynchronous (for example, Google Documents and Draw, email) tools that you can employ to facilitate the collaboration process.

**Museum Visit:** A major assignment for this course requires that you visit an art museum in person and write a critique based on a work of art you encounter there. Please plan accordingly. If you are unable to visit an art museum, you need to drop this course.

**Reading:** You are expected to read your text as it corresponds to the course content.

*What you can expect from me*

You can expect me to work hard to facilitate your learning, be available to help you individually on an as-needed basis, and to be dedicated to your success. I will regularly post announcements for our class and will answer questions concerning assignments and course content. I will make best

efforts to respond to your inquiries within 24 hours, M-F. Please be patient and know that I am responding to lots of students.

### **Late Work**

Given the nature of our course - both online and brief - it is essential that you stay on top of your course work. I do understand that life can be complicated and that there are unpleasant surprises. However, *any work that is turned in late will automatically receive a penalty grade of -10% per day that it is late. Work that is more than 3 days late will not be accepted. Your final project will not be accepted if it is late at all.*

If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from turning in your work on time, we can discuss your situation individually and you will be required to provide me with proper documentation, at my discretion, in order for the work to be accepted. An example of a valid excuse is your hospitalization. An example of an invalid excuse is that you had to work late or that your plane was delayed. Plan in advance so that you are not trying to submit work at the 11th hour when technical problems seem to inevitably arise.

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**A note on images:** All images used in this course are for educational purposes only and *may not be replicated, copied, or appropriated* for personal use.

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**I reserve the right to alter this syllabus when necessary. If the need arises to do so, I will notify you by announcement.**