



ART510 Art Theory and Criticism (2 credit hours) Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course surveys selected texts and figures important to the history of visual interpretation from the classical era to the twentieth century. Students will learn to consider multiple interpretations of a text and learn to examine the assumptions underlying a variety of interpretive strategies. Students will also explore the interrelationships between artist, text, and audience.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Discuss specific theories of visual interpretation and their origins.
2. Apply the major ideas of a variety of approaches to textual interpretation to art or other creative texts.
3. Evaluate the merit of a specific theory by creating a high school or college teaching unit that is informed by the chosen theory.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Freeland, C. (2003). *Art Theory: A Very Short Introduction*

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each**

week. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week.**

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays.**
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays.**

Learning Activities

Throughout this course you will work on your choice of a blog or website, posting your assignments and sharing a link to your work with the class. Each week we will cover a variety of art theory topics, each building on the next. The result will be a resource you can refer to long after the course has ended.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.3 (30) Activity 1.4 (30)	Discussions Activity 2.1 (30) Activity 2.2 (30)	Discussions Activity 3.1 (35) Activity 3.2 (35)	Discussions Activity 4.1 (30) Activity 4.2 (30)	Discussions Activity 5.1 (30) Activity 5.2 (30)	Discussions Activity 6.1 (30) Activity 6.2 (30)	Discussions Activity 7.1 (30) Activity 7.2 (30)	420
Assignments Activity 1.2 (10) Activity 1.5 (75)	Assignments Activity 2.3 (75)	Assignments Activity 3.3 (75)	Assignments Activity 4.3 (75)	Assignments Activity 5.3 (75)	Assignments Activity 6.3 (135)	Assignments Activity 7.3 (60)	
145	135	135	135	135	195	120	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

Activity 1.1: Look At Me! - Initial Post

Week 1

Activity 1.1: Look At Me! - Optional Secondary Post

Activity 1.2: Get Ready - Blog or Website

Activity 1.3: Taste and Beauty

Activity 1.4: Blood and Bodily Fluids

Activity 1.5: Shock in Contemporary Art

Week 2

- Activity 2.1: Catharsis
- Activity 2.2: Artworld
- Activity 2.3: Plato's Criticisms

Week 3

- Activity 3.1: Art as Experience
- Activity 3.2: Significant Form
- Activity 3.3: Final Project Proposal

Week 4

- Activity 4.1: Museums
- Activity 4.2: The Codex of Leicester
- Activity 4.3: Kitsch Value

Week 5

- Activity 5.1: Gender and Art
- Activity 5.2: Feminist Philosophy
- Activity 5.3: Representation, Gender, and Power

Week 6

- Activity 6.1: What Is Art?
- Activity 6.2: What Is An Author?
- Activity 6.3: Final Project

Week 7

- Activity 7.1: The Aura

Activity 7.2: McLuhan and Today's Art

Activity 7.3: Mastering Your Blog/Website

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.