An introductory course designed to give the student a fundamental understanding of the creation and appreciation of diverse modes of expression through the visual and performing arts.

TH2313.253
Evans Liberal Arts Building Room 218
M/W 12:30-1:50

Instructor: Rocky Hopson    Email: rah129@txstate.edu

Office: Performing Arts Center (Perf) room 308
Departmental phone: (512) 245-2204
Office hours: M/W 11am-12pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Isaac James Byrne    Email: ib58542@txstate.edu
TA office hours: Thursdays 2:30-3:30 Performing Arts Center (Perf) room 308

Text: Supplemental material will be provided via TRACS.

General Education Core Curriculum (Code 050)

Creative Arts Component Outcomes:
Students will synthesize and interpret artistic expression and convey critical, creative and innovative communication about works of art.

Core Objectives/Competencies Outcomes:

- **Critical Thinking**
  - Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

- **Communication**
  - Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

- **Teamwork**
  - Students will recognize different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

- **Social Responsibility**
  - Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage in regional, national and global communities.
**Attendance**: Class attendance has a direct relationship to class performance and success. Attendance will not be taken on a regular basis.

Random attendance and pop quizzes will be taken at the instructor’s discretion and will result in extra credit.

All lecture material will be posted on TRACS the day of the lecture. You are responsible for knowing the material and preparing for exams and turning in assignments on time. Check syllabus schedule for exam dates and due dates for critiques.

**** If you attend class please stay for the whole class. Class time is 12:30 to 1:50. I will always try to let class out five to ten minutes early, although that is not a guarantee. If you must leave class early please notify the TA in advance. Leaving early without letting us know will result in an unexcused absence for that day.

If you have an emergency, please contact your appointed TA immediately to discuss options. For an absence to be excused you must provide documentation.

**Course Requirements:**

**Exams**: There will be three exams including the final exam. Testable material includes PowerPoint’s, reading assignments and media presented. Exams will be multiple-choice and be taken in class. Student must provide their own scantron for each exam.

**Critiques**: Students will be required to research and evaluate four different works of art from the main disciplines discussed in class:

1. Visual Art
2. Music or Dance
2. Theatre

**Absences Exam and Critiques**

If you need to take an exam early make arrangements with your TA. All make-up exams need to be completed within a week of the original test date.

*Unexcused absences on exam days or due dates will result in a 0 for that exam or critique.*

Excused absences - If you are absent on an exam day or when a critique is due you must notify the TA in advance and also present documentation. Please make arrangements with the TA to take the exam early or turn in the critique in advance.
If an emergency prevents attendance please notify the Instructor or TA as soon as possible to discuss options.

**Grading Policy:** Your grade will be determined by the 3 exams and 4 critiques.

- Exam 1 – 20%
- Exam 2 – 20%
- Exam 3 – 20%
- Critique 1 – 10%
- Critique 2 – 10%
- Critique 3 – 10%
- Critique 4 – 10%

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
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**It is university policy not to discuss grades over email. If you have questions about any grades posted, please contact your TA to make an appointment to discuss your issue in person.**

**Extra Credit:** An extra credit assignment will be due the class before each exam. More information will be posted on TRACS. An opportunity exists for extra credit at the end of the semester. The details and requirements will be posted on TRACS.

**TRACS:** The syllabus, PowerPoints, grades, attendance, resources and reference guide, rubrics, other class documents are available online. Click on TRACS at the Texas State home page and use your Texas State password and ID to log into it.

**Class Communication:** You are responsible for all of the communication through TRACS that is sent out. You must check your txstate.edu email address and the TRACS site regularly to keep up with communication between classes. The TA and I post frequent important emails and announcements, so please keep on top of it. Remember, grades are posted and updated regularly so make sure you check TRACS often.

**Academic Honesty:** The University Honor Code is posted in your handbook and online, as is the policy and procedures involving concerns about academic honesty.
WE ARE CONSCIENTIOUS. We complete our work on time and make every effort to do it right. We come to class and meetings prepared and are willing to demonstrate it. We hold ourselves to doing what is required, embrace rigor, and shun mediocrity, special requests, and excuses.

WE ARE RESPECTFUL. We act civilly toward one another and we cooperate with each other. We will strive to create an environment in which people respect and listen to one another, speaking when appropriate, and permitting other people to participate and express their views.

WE ARE HONEST. We do our own work and are honest with one another in all matters. We understand how various acts of dishonesty, like plagiarizing, falsifying data, and giving or receiving assistance to which one is not entitled, conflict as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity.

THE PLEDGE FOR STUDENTS

Students at our university recognize that, to insure honest conduct, more is needed than an expectation of academic honesty, and we therefore adopt the practice of affixing the following pledge of honesty to the work we submit for evaluation:

I pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and responsibility at our university.

Students found guilty of academic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to, cheating on an exam or other submitted work, plagiarism, abuse of resources, etc. are subject to disciplinary action.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

I ask that students use only paper and pen/pencil to take notes, and to turn off all electronic devices at the beginning of class, and store them in bags. This policy includes phones, laptops, and anything else that beeps or distracts. A long justification of this policy can read here: https://medium.com/@cshirky/why-i-just-asked-my-students-to-put-their-laptops-away-7f5f7c50f368 - .4maokfbv

Computer: The only exception to have a laptop in class is for those requesting and receiving a documented accommodation request from the Office of Disability Services. Anyone receiving such an accommodation is to restrict their computer use to the sole purpose of taking class notes.

Special Needs: Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) are asked to identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester, so proper accommodations can be made.

Rules of Engagement: “Students are full partners in fostering a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor; students are prohibited from engaging
in any form of behavior that detracts from the learning experience of fellow students. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result in a request for the offending student to leave class.” (from Student Justice brochure “Maintaining Civility in the Classroom.) Disrespectful behavior of any type will not be tolerated.

Support Services:

- Special Needs: Students with special needs who need special accommodations should register with the Office of Disability Services (512 245-3451). In addition, please inform me at the beginning of the semester.

- SLAC (Student Learning Assistance) Lab is located on the 4th floor of the Alkek Library. (512 245-2515) Web Site: [http://www.txstate.edu/slac/owl.htm](http://www.txstate.edu/slac/owl.htm).

Classroom Setting:

While in class please remain quiet and respectful of others. Behavior that disrupts or distracts from the ability for other students to learn and participate is prohibited. We are all responsible for fostering a positive, respectful and engaging learning environment for everyone in the class.

Please do not start packing up early; it is disruptive to the class.

If you must leave early, inform the TA before class begins, and be sure to be as quiet as possible so not to disturb your fellow classmates.

Please don’t leave anything behind. This room is shared with several other classes please be respectful and take all belongings and any trash with you when you leave.

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A Few Tips:

1. When in doubt, first consult the syllabus then if you still have a question email one of us.

2. Check your e-mail regularly for messages, especially the night before each class.

3. Familiarize yourself with the syllabus and the TRACS course site.

4. Allow at least 24 hours for an email response.
Tentative Course Schedule:

(The schedule is a guide. Changes will be announced as needed.)

Week one

**WED JAN 18** – First day of classes – Orientation of the Class

Week two

**MON JAN 23** – Defining Art/ What is Art? / Art Appreciation

**WED JAN 25** – Critique Discussion

Week three

**MON JAN 30** – General terms and concepts

**WED FEB 1** – The Nature and Function of the Arts –

Week four

**MON FEB 6** – Visual Art

**WED FEB 8** – Visual Art

Week five

**MON FEB 13** – Visual Art

*Exam Extra Credit Due*

*Due Critique #1 by 11pm*

**WED FEB 15** – *EXAM 1*

Week six

**MON FEB 20** – Music

**WED FEB 22** – Music

Week seven

**MON FEB 27** – Music

**WED MAR 1** – Music

Week eight

**MON MAR 6** – Theatre

**WED MAR 8** – Theatre

*Due Critique 2 by 11pm*
Week nine – Spring Break
MON MAR 13th – No class
WED MAR 15th – No class

Week ten
MON MAR 20th – Theatre
WED MAR 22nd – Theatre

Week eleven
MON MAR 27th – Theatre
WED MAR 29th – *Exam 2*

Week twelve
MON APR 3rd – Dance
WED APR 5th – Dance *Due Critique 3 by 11pm*

Week thirteen
MON APR 10th – Dance
WED APR 12th – Cinema

Week fourteen
MON APR 17th – Cinema
WED APR 19th – Cinema

Week fifteen
MON APR 24th – In class movie
WED APR 26th – In class movie

Week sixteen
WED MAY 1st – In class movie - *Due Exam Extra credit* *Due Critique 4 by 11pm*

Week seventeen
WED May 10th *FINAL* 11am-1:30pm