

Department: ART

Course No: 135

Credits: 3

Title: Art Appreciation

Contact: Jean Givens

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Catalog Copy: ART 135 Art Appreciation. Either semester. Three credits. Not open to Art majors.

Introduction to the visual arts, past and present. The visual language of artists, historical and cultural significance of works of art.

Course Information: A—Art Appreciation provides an introduction to the vocabulary of art, the principles of design, and the process of descriptive analysis as a means to a greater understanding of art and the creative process. Seminal works of art and contributions by individual artists and cultures are discussed to provide a basis for developing an appreciation for the visual arts

B--Course requirements for ART 135 include two or three exams and may also include in-class presentations and written essays.

Exams follow several formats that include short answer and essay responses to individual and paired images and multiple-choice questions.

Readings are drawn from one of several art appreciation textbooks intended for undergraduates, most often, Rita Gilbert's Living with Art. Other readings may include Writing About Art by Henry Sayre, primary texts, and current critical commentaries. Approximately 40 pages of reading are assigned per week.

C--Major themes include:

- how to look at art
- --the visual elements of art
- --the principles of design
- --themes and purposes of art
- --art media including painting, the camera arts, drawing, printmaking, architecture and communication design
- --general introduction to representative works of art from the Paleolithic period to the 21st century.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: ART 135 meets at least four of the goals of UCONN's revised General Education program:

--Become Articulate--Classroom discussions and written work require students to replace opinions with facts and to analyze the basis of their judgments.

--Acquire Critical Judgment--The introduction and use of descriptive analysis in Art 135 establishes a foundation for critical thinking that is not solely applicable to the arts.

--Acquire Awareness of their era and society--Art Appreciation investigates the development of visual language and explores the variety of ways that themes in arts are represented visually.

--Acquire consciousness of the diversity of human culture and experience--By viewing and analyzing works of art from multiple time periods, students gain an awareness of the diversity of human culture and experience.

CA1 Criteria: Criterion D applies: Students develop comprehension and appreciation of written, graphic and/or performance art forms.

ART 135: ART APPRECIATION develops an appreciation for the visual/graphic art forms by developing visual literacy, critical viewing skills, and an awareness of the range of major media based on the discussion of seminal and representative works of art from the Paleolithic period to the 21st century.

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Supplemental Information: This course has been cited by students as one that has had a profound effect on how they view the world and one that has expanded their horizons in unexpected ways.