



ARTS1301.088TR Art Appreciation ONLINE 16-week

Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."

Instructor: Debbie Strong

Office: none

Phone: (903) 434-8255 (Leave message with Humanities secretary)

Email: dstrong@ntcc.edu

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
						MS Teams

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description: A general introduction to the visual arts designed to create an appreciation of the vocabulary, media, techniques, and purposes of the creative process. Students will critically interpret and evaluate works of art within formal, cultural, and historical contexts.

Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Apply art terminology as it specifically relates to works of art.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of art elements and principles of design.
3. Differentiate between the processes and materials used in the production of various works of art.
4. Critically interpret and evaluate works of art.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of arts on culture.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Assignments or assessments are:

▪ SmartBooks online via Connect
▪ Discussions (3 each) online in Blackboard
▪ Quizzes online via Connect
▪ Assignments online via Connect

Percentages of your grade are calculated per the following:

Connect SmartBooks are 10%

Discussions are 30%

Connect Quizzes are 30%

Connect Assignments are 30%

Grades for SmartBook, Assignments, and the Quizzes in Connect will be visible as soon as you complete and submit your work. Detailed feedback for these assignments will be available after the due date.

Discussions will be graded by the embedded rubric within seven days of the due date. You may receive written feedback to your discussion posts in your Blackboard grade center. If you do not post your initial post by Wednesday night, you may have a 1 inserted in your grade column, but you will still be able to post your discussion posts. Your grade will change to reflect your score after the due date. For example, you may lose ten points for not posting your initial post by Wednesday at midnight.

In your grade center, you will see a running percentage that changes as your assignment grades are entered. A zero is entered in your assignment grade column in Blackboard if you do not complete the assignment before the due date and time. No late work is accepted.

For your final grade, you will receive a letter grade. This list shows how letter grades are calculated:

- A - 90 to 100 percent
- B - 80 to 89 percent
- C - 70 to 79 percent
- D - 60 to 69 percent
- F - less than 60 percent

If you are a dual credit student, you will receive a letter final grade and a grade percentage.

Required Instructional Materials: This textbook is available to you online as an eBook via Inclusive Access. You have already paid for it in your tuition. If you want a printed copy, the ISBN numbers are below. If you want a printed book, please visit the NTCC bookstore.

Mark Getlein and Kelly Donahue-Wallace, Living with Art & McGraw-Hill with Connect, 13th edition.

Publisher: New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2020

ISBN Number: ISBN10: 1265594856 and ISBN13: 9781265594855

Optional Instructional Materials: You will use Connect via McGraw Hill to access your assignments. You have already paid for access to your eBook and online course materials with your tuition and fees. The instructions inside the Start Course Here folder will help you register for Connect and give you guidelines on how best to use these resources. **Register with Connect immediately.** Most of your coursework is in Connect, so it is very important to register as soon as this class opens.

Minimum Technology Requirements: You must have access to a computer and internet to take this course. Lack of either of these requirements is not an excuse for missing due dates. Visit the Student Resource tab in Blackboard for more information on technology requirements.

Required Computer Literacy Skills: Blackboard Learning Management System, Microsoft word processing skills, MS Teams, email skills.

Course Structure and Overview:

Register with Connect immediately upon entry into the course, by going to the Chapter 1 Smartbook assignment in Blackboard. Online classes follow a structured class schedule, and this class is set up so you can start learning right away. The Blackboard Learning Management System contains a course navigation bar and home page where you will find a Student Resource tab. Use this tab to learn more about the Blackboard environment you will be working in during this course. You must work diligently to be successful in this course as it has the same rigor and expectations as a traditional face-to-face 16-week art appreciation course.

Approximately 14 days before the end of the course, every student should **complete an anonymous course evaluation in the Student Portal**. The results of this evaluation are anonymous, and the feedback is valuable to future students and the instructor. You will receive reminders to complete these surveys until you have completed them. Once final grades are posted, the course evaluations will close.

Students must submit Assignments, Quizzes and Discussions before the stated due date and time. No late work is accepted. Complete all weekly assignments **in the order listed** in Blackboard. **Complete each chapter SmartBook until you earn a score of 100 before attempting any assessments.** Quizzes and Assignments for each chapter will test your knowledge of the subject matter and are calculated in your grade. You may work ahead as long as you are working in order. Discussions 2 and 3 can only be done after you have successfully completed Chapters 4 and 5.

Communications:

Email communications must be from NTCC email; this is the official communication at NTCC. You must access your email daily through the Eagle portal. Download the Outlook app on your cell phone and set up an account with your school email. You will receive frequent email reminders for assignments that are due and for announcements. The instructor may leave written feedback to your discussion posts in your Blackboard grade center. Announcements will be sent from the instructor via Blackboard and an email.

Emails to me will be answered within 24 hours. Email is the best way to get hold of me. My email is dstrong@ntcc.edu. When emailing me, please include your student ID number, first and last name as you are enrolled in the course, and what course you are in (this course is ARTS1301 Art Appreciation).

You may also use the MS Teams tab in Blackboard to reach out to me. You may also use the Blackboard messaging system.

Institutional/Course Policy:

1. You must complete online assignments promptly and before the due date. No late work is accepted.

2. **You must do the weekly assignments in the order listed in Blackboard.** Complete all the chapter SmartBook assignments until you earn a grade of 100. If you do not earn 100, you should not advance to the other assessments within that week. Watch any chapter videos, review the chapter Power Point, complete the Assignment, and complete the Quiz. Complete any discussion posts.
3. You must read all Blackboard announcements as they are posted. An easy way to make sure you see all announcements is to have school emails sent to your phone.
4. You must check NTCC email and Blackboard announcements daily.
5. You must monitor your grades in Blackboard and email me if you have any questions.
6. **Withdrawal Policy:** You must complete the short syllabus acknowledgment quiz on Day One in Blackboard. Failure to complete the syllabus acknowledgment quiz may result in being dropped from the class. You will receive email reminders until you complete the syllabus acknowledgment quiz. Once you have submitted the syllabus acknowledgment quiz, you are considered in attendance for census. If you stop attending the course (i.e., stop submitting assignments) without withdrawing, you will still receive a grade, whether passing or failing. It is your responsibility to drop a course or withdraw from the college. **The final day to withdraw with a grade of “W” is November 18, 2025.**
7. **Attendance Policy:** An online class requires consistent engagement. All activity, including the links that you access, and the amount of time spent on each activity, is tracked through Blackboard. You should plan to log on every day and participate fully in the course.
8. Day One is the day this course is open to students. On that first day of class or when the class is opened, you must register with Connect to access your eBook for this course. On Day One, you must read the syllabus and complete the syllabus acknowledgment quiz. On Day One, you must enter the Start Course Here folder in Blackboard and familiarize yourself with the course. On Day One, you should post your initial introduction due by Wednesday at midnight.
9. Register with Connect immediately by going to the Chapter 1 Smartbook assignment in Blackboard. Most of your coursework is in Connect, so it is very important to register as soon as this class opens. See the Start Course Here folder for more information in the folder called McGraw-Hill Connect Registration and eBook Help.
10. Presenting AI-generated writing or art as your own work is considered plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC’s website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor, use of or consultation with generative AI shall be treated analogously to assistance from another person (collusion). Generative AI is a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data (Cornell, Center for Teaching Innovation).

Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is not permitted. Students should acknowledge the use of generative AI and default to disclosing such assistance when in doubt. Individual course instructors may set their own policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification. **(Adapted from the Stanford University Office of Community Standards-- accessed August 31, 2023)**

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Timeline (*note* instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline at any point in the term):

Assignment Due Dates for Fall 2025 ARTS1301 Art
Appreciation 16- week ONLINE Course dates are 8/25/2025
through 12/4/2025 Instructor: Debbie Strong

- Weekly Connect assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the dates (Sundays) listed below, except the last week of class.
- Initial discussion posts are due Wednesday at midnight. This is the Wednesday BEFORE the due date on Sunday.

You may work ahead, if you are doing the assignments in order. Complete the Smartbook reading and questions until you earn 100, then Quizzes, then Assignments, then Discussions. Discussions 2 and 3 can only be done after you have successfully completed Chapters 4 and 5.

- You have **unlimited attempts** to complete assignments before the due date.
- **On Day One – or before this date (Aug 25,)** you must:
 1. Read all information in the Start Course Here folder in Blackboard.
 2. Register with Connect per the instructions in the Start Course Here folder in Blackboard.
 3. Read the syllabus closely and complete the Syllabus Acknowledgment Quiz in the Start Course Here folder in Blackboard.
 4. Complete your introduction (Discussion #1) initial post per the instructions and embedded rubric in Blackboard.

WEEK 1: Discussion #1 - (your introductions and responses to classmates) are due.

Your initial discussion must be posted before midnight on Wednesday, Aug 27. Your responses to your three (3) classmates must be posted before midnight on Sunday, Aug 31.

Ch 1 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Aug 31.

WEEK 2: Ch 2 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Sep 7.

WEEK 3: Ch 3 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Sep 14.

WEEK 4: Ch 4 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Sep 21.

WEEK 5: Ch 5 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Sep 28.

WEEK 6: Ch 6 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Oct 5.

WEEK 7: Ch 7 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Oct 12. Discussion #2 - (your description of art and responses to two classmates are due.) See Appendix A below for more information on the discussion. The images are on the discussion board in Blackboard. Your initial discussion must be posted before midnight on Wednesday, Oct 8. Your responses to your two (2) classmates must be posted before midnight on Sunday, Oct 12.

WEEK 8: Ch 8 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Oct 19. This is the middle of the semester

WEEK 9: Ch 9 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Oct 26.

WEEK 10: Chapter 10 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Nov 2.

Discussion #3 - (your analysis of art and responses to two classmates are due.) See Appendix A below for more information on the discussion. The images are on the discussion board in Blackboard. Your initial discussion must be posted before midnight on Wednesday, Oct 29. Your responses to your two (2) classmates must be posted before midnight on Sunday, Nov 2.

WEEK 11: Ch 11 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Nov 9.

WEEK 12: Ch 12 Connect assignments are due in Blackboard before midnight on Nov 16. The final day to withdraw with a grade of “W” is Nov 18.

WEEK 13: Ch 13 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Nov 23.

Submit your Course Evaluation in your student portal.

WEEK 14: Thanksgiving break is Nov 26-28

WEEK 15: Chapter 23 Connect assignments are due before midnight on Thursday, Dec 4. The last day to complete classwork is Thursday, Dec 4.

**WEEK 16: Dec 5 – 11 is finals weeks. There is no final exam.
Graduation is Dec 12.**

Appendix A

Discussion Instructions and Rubrics

Discussion 1 Introductions and Rubric

Your introduction and responses are a graded assignment. Please follow the directions as posted.

Pay attention to grammar and usage in addition to addressing your response clearly from the outset, so that the reader knows what you are discussing. Address your classmate by name. I suggest you type your discussions in MS Word BEFORE posting to the discussion board. You can download a free version of MS Word in the Student Resources Technical Support tab here in Blackboard. Check your word count BEFORE creating a post or replying to your classmates. Answer the introduction prompts thoroughly and have the minimum word count to earn full points for this discussion assignment.

Do not attach a pdf or Word document; you must post within the discussion board. Click on the link in the discussion board in Blackboard to enter the discussion board. Introduce yourself to the class using **only one of the following methods:**

1. What is one thing you are passionate about exploring in art? Explain how this relates to your personality.
2. What are you hoping to learn or achieve in this art appreciation class? What type of art would you like to learn more about? Explain why.
3. What are four words you would use to describe yourself? How and why do these words describe you? Give personal examples.

If you wish, choose an appropriate image that represents you in some way and embed that image in your introduction post.

Once you have posted your introduction, you must read and comment on at least **three** of your classmates' posts. This opportunity allows us to get to know each other better.

RUBRIC FOR GRADING DISCUSSION #1 (Introductions) 100 points

Your original post should be a minimum of 250 words and use one of the methods listed above (50 points). Your original post should be posted **by Wednesday at midnight of the first week** to give you time to respond to three of your classmates by Sunday at midnight.

After your initial post, you must respond to **three** of your classmates. Each peer response should be a minimum of 150 words. You must add to the discussion. (50 points total).

Discussion 2 Instructions and Rubric (Visual Analysis Using Elements and Principles of Art)

Use your own words. Do not plagiarize. These discussion posts must be created using your own critical thinking skills.

The purpose of this discussion is to practice looking at and talking about artwork using the art terminology found in the textbook, especially chapters 4 and 5, and the Course Handouts. It is an exercise in visual analysis utilizing the elements and principles of art. We are simply breaking down what we see in the artwork. This is NOT a discussion about the artist, culture, or meaning behind the artwork (aka context and interpretation).

Please follow the directions as posted. Your original post must be posted by midnight on Wednesday of the discussion due week.

Pay attention to grammar and usage in addition to addressing your response clearly from the outset, so that the reader knows what you are discussing. Address your classmate by name. I suggest you type your discussions in MS Word BEFORE posting to the discussion board. You can download a free version of MS Word in the Student Resources Technical Support tab here in Blackboard. Check your word count BEFORE posting or replying to your classmates. Answer thoroughly and have the minimum word count to earn full points for this discussion assignment.

Do not attach a pdf or Word document; you must create a post within the discussion board. Click on the link in the discussion board in Blackboard to enter the discussion board.

For more examples of how to correctly use the art terminology from your textbook, please refer to the lessons "Utilizing the Terminology" for the elements and the principles of art. Chapters 4 and 5 cover the art terminology (art/design elements and principles), so refer to the Power Point slides and the videos for these two chapters to familiarize yourself with these terms. The Course must be used to complete the discussions.

You will create ONE main/original post (50 points) and TWO posts that reply to a peer's main post (25 points x 2 = 50 points). **The main/original post is due by Wednesday at midnight.**

1. Click on Discussion 2 in the discussion board. There will be 3 of my digital artworks in individual posts.
2. Select only ONE artwork to discuss and to respond to. Click the reply button directly below the artwork image.
3. Choose only one element of art OR one principle of art that you have observed in my artwork. Discuss and focus on ONLY that one element or ONLY that one principle functions in my work of art. Your original post must be a minimum of 250 words. From the Course Handouts, you will see that the elements and principles work together, so multiple terms from these two lists will be in your posts. You must choose your focus from the list of elements and principles listed below in lines 4 and 5.
4. **The elements of art are: line, color, shape, texture, form, value, space.**
5. **The principles of art are: unity, movement, balance, rhythm, contrast, emphasis, pattern.**

6. Use the handouts on the Course Home Page to understand these terms. Go back to chapters 4 and 5, look at the Power Point Presentations, and watch the videos, so that you understand these elements and principles **BEFORE** you attempt this discussion.
7. **In the first sentence of your post, be sure to add the element or principle you have chosen to discuss.**
8. Under the SAME IMAGE, you will then **read** the main comments created by your peers. Be sure that you do NOT post a reply to someone else's reply.
9. Select a peer's comment that was about a **DIFFERENT** element or principle than the one you chose for that image. (**Same artwork – different element or principle**)
10. **IN YOUR PEER'S MAIN POST**, you will click the **reply** button and create a response to your classmate's post. **ADDRESS YOUR CLASSMATE BY NAME**, so we can keep track of whom you are responding to in your post. You should reply to a peer's original post with a minimum of 150 words. **You must add to the discussion with at least two different topics (an element or a principle). Do not write about the same element or principle you already discussed.**
11. To complete this assignment, you must have ONE main post by midnight on Wednesday of the due week and TWO reply posts by Sunday at midnight. **Each reply post must have at least two different topics of either element or principle or art.**

Tips to Remember: Make sure your replies do not just re-state what a peer has posted – ADD to the conversation. Your two replies must be about DIFFERENT elements and principles – don't just repeat yourself. **Use the elements and principles listed in lines 4 and 5 above.**

Any sentence that is NOT discussing an art or design element will not be counted in the word count (e.g.: "I think the painting is pretty," or "I really like this artwork"). Also, remember that I am NOT asking you to post about the artist, the context, or what the artwork "means". **I am asking for a *description* of ONE element or principle in your original post. Do not add the definition of the element or principle.**

RUBRIC FOR GRADING DISCUSSION #2 (100 points)

Original Posting (50 points)

1. Identifies one element or one principle correctly **in the subject line** before Wednesday at midnight (10 points)
2. Correctly utilizes the art terminology (20 points). Use the Course Handouts on the Course Home Page.
3. Discusses at a critical level, not just recitation of facts from the readings (10 points)
4. Length of posting should be a minimum of 250 words. Words that do not address the topic do not count, like "Hello Susie...wow...I love your discussion post." (10 points)

Reply to Two Classmates' Postings (50 points total). Address your classmate by name, please.

1. Adds to each discussion post with two different elements or principles. (10 points x 2)
2. Discusses at a critical level, not just recitation of facts from the readings, or what another student has already posted. (10 points x 2)
3. Length should be a minimum of 150 words each. Words that do not address the topic do not count, like "Hello Susie...wow...I love your discussion post." (5 points x 2)

Discussion 3 Instructions and Rubric (Interpretation based on Elements and Principles)

Use your own words. Do not plagiarize. These discussion posts must be created using your own critical thinking skills.

Please follow the directions as posted. Your original post must be posted by midnight on Wednesday of the discussion due week.

Pay attention to grammar and usage in addition to addressing your response clearly from the outset, so that the reader knows what you are discussing. Address your classmate by name. I suggest you type your discussions in MS Word BEFORE posting to the discussion board. You can download a free version of MS Word in the Student Resources Technical Support tab here in Blackboard. Check your word count BEFORE creating a post or replying to your classmates.

Do not attach a pdf or Word document; you must post within the discussion board. Click on the link in the discussion board in Blackboard to enter the discussion board.

1. Click on Discussion 3. There will be 3 artworks in individual posts.
2. Select only ONE artwork to discuss and to respond to. Click reply directly below the artwork image.
3. Offer an interpretation of the artwork. **Answer these questions: what does it mean to me? What is going on? What feelings does the artwork evoke in me?**
4. **The elements of art are: line, color, shape, texture, form, value, space.**
5. **The principles of art are: unity, movement, balance, rhythm, contrast, emphasis, pattern.**
6. Use the handouts on the Course Home Page to understand these terms. Go back to chapters 4 and 5, look at the Power Point Presentations, and watch the videos, so that you understand these elements and principles **BEFORE** you attempt this discussion.
7. Visually analyze the artwork. **Describe ONE or TWO elements or ONE or TWO principles that support your interpretation** (Think of this as the “evidence” that proves your theory).
8. Be sure to change the subject to include the elements or principles used to explain your interpretation. Your original post must be a minimum of 250 words.
9. Under the SAME IMAGE, you will then read the main comments created by your peers. Be sure that you do NOT post a reply to someone else’s reply. You should reply to a post with a minimum of 150 words.
10. IN YOUR PEER’S MAIN POST, you will click the Reply button and create a response to your classmate’s post.
11. Create two replies that add to both classmates’ interpretations with two different elements or principles.
12. To complete this assignment, you must have ONE main post about your chosen artwork and TWO reply posts.

Tips to Remember: Often, we look at artworks and develop certain feelings and interpretations without knowing why we think or feel that way. Other times, we have no idea how we are supposed to think and feel when we look at an artwork; we just see what is there. In each discussion, it is important to stop and describe the elements and principles – this usually reveals what you need to know. Each interpretation is personal. There is no “right” answer.

This discussion is about YOUR opinion and how YOU arrived there using the design elements and principles. Remember to ADD to the conversation with different elements or principles. Do not just repeat or rephrase what your peers have said. Please do not use, “wow, you are so right, fellow classmate! I love your post! It is very informative.” These phrases will not count in your word count.

RUBRIC FOR GRADING DISCUSSION #3 (100 points)

Original Posting (50 points)

1. Identifies 1-2 element(s) or 1-2 principle(s) correctly **in the first sentence** before Wednesday at midnight of the due week (10 points)
2. Correctly utilizes the art terminology (20 points). Use the Course Handouts on the Course Home Page.
3. Discusses and interprets at a critical level, not just recitation of facts from the readings (10 points)
4. Length of posting should be a minimum of 250 words. Words that do not address the topic do not count, like "Hello Susie...wow...I love your discussion post." (10 points)

Reply to Two Classmates' Postings (50 points total). Address your classmate by name, please.

1. Adds to the discussion and supports interpretations and observations with two different elements or principles to each reply to two classmates (10 points x 2)
2. Discusses at a critical level, not just recitation of facts from the readings, or what another student has already posted. (10 points x 2)
3. Length should be a minimum of 150 words each. Words that do not address the topic do not count, like "Hello Susie...wow...I love your discussion post." (5 points x 2)