

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

**ART 100 – ART APPRECIATION**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

In this introductory course students learn how to examine, compare, analyze, evaluate, interpret, and discuss works of visual art within their cultural contexts. Art media for study will include drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, film, architecture, etc. Works for examination will encompass representative artistic styles from western and other major world cultures, and will also include the artistic contributions of women and minority cultures.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Define "art" and "work of art."
- 2) Identify the principle media of the visual arts and describe the typical methods and materials appropriate to each medium.
- 3) Analyze the elements and principles of design employed in the formal structure of selected artworks.
- 4) Compare and contrast the style characteristics of selected works.
- 5) Debate the relevance and applicability of realistic representation, aesthetic appeal ("beauty"), and meaningful communication as criteria for evaluating art.
- 6) Discuss artworks in the light of their historical, social and cultural contexts.
- 7) Employ the language, concepts and methods of interpretive criticism as applicable to the various art media.
- 8) Discuss visual art as a key to understanding human values and experience from a variety of perspectives, including those of the world's various cultures, women, minority cultures, etc.

**Special Materials Required of Student**

None

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

Standard classroom with capacity for double slide projection, overhead projector, video, maps, film projector, laser disk, CD ROM technology, multimedia projection system.

**Course Content**

- 1) Basic Considerations in Aesthetics:
  - a. "Art": traditional and alternative definitions
  - b. "Beauty": What is it? Can we measure it? Are standards of beauty universal or only relative? Measuring and application of the goloon section.
  - c. Realistic representation: Is it a necessary goal of art?
  - d. "Taste": Is there really no argument against it? Should one broaden one's taste?
  - e. Aesthetic Perception and Response, as a result from the interplay of:
    1. Artistic form (structural and organizational considerations as controlled by the artist)
    2. Subject matter (namely, that which is "literally" depicted, e.g., a view of a village, the nonobjective juxtaposition of certain colors and shapes, etc.)
    3. Content (the artist's meaning or intended interpretation vis-à-vis the subject matter)
    4. Participation (how the beholder interacts with form, subject matter and content)
- 2) Fundamental Concepts of Visual Art:
  - a. The Elements of Art: line, shape, value, color, texture, mass, space
  - b. The Principles of Design: unity, variety, balance, rhythm, emphasis, focal point, proportion, scale, perspective
- 3) The Media of the Visual Arts: Interdisciplinary and alternative methods of communication:
  - a. The Graphic Media: drawing, printmaking, photography, film, digital
  - b. Painting: fresco, watercolor, tempera, oil, acrylic, digital, etc.
  - c. Sculpture: relief and full-round; materials and techniques
  - d. Architecture: structural systems; environmental considerations; styles
  - e. Applied Design:
    1. Architectural interiors
    2. Textiles and clothing
    3. The technologies of fire: ceramics, glass, metal

- 4) The Styles and Cultural Contexts of Visual Art: While the course may follow a categorical, topical or chronological scheme, the specific styles and works examined will be broadly representative; that is, not restricted to Western art. At least 25% of the artworks studied will feature the artistic contributions of the major "non-Western" cultures, women and minority groups.
  - a. The goal of the examination of artistic styles is more to reinforce and enhance the student's grasp of fundamental artistic concepts and principles than to provide an exhaustive survey of art history. Nonetheless, the consideration of styles and cultural contexts will include art from prehistoric times to the present, as well as representative examples from at least the following cultures and regions:
  - b. The primal/tribal societies of Africa, the Americas, Oceania, and pre-historic Europe
  - c. Asia (China, India, etc.)
  - d. Islamic culture
  - e. Europe
  - f. North America
  - g. Latin America
- 5) Influences of social, political, economic, legal, environmental, health and safety issues on art making

**Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture and dialogue
- 2) Field experiences (museums and galleries)
- 3) Audiovisual, video, multimedia presentations
- 4) Internet research

**Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) At least one midterm and final exam (slide identification, multiple choice, essay)
- 2) Two or more written reports or critiques relating visits to instructor-approved museums and/or galleries
- 3) Periodic quizzes/written assignments

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative example): Frank, Patrick. Prebles' Artforms. 8th edition, Prentice Hall, 2004.
- 2) Supplemental: None