

# Mercer County Community College

## Arts and Communication Division

### ART 101

### Art and Culture

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course looks at Art in the context of the time and culture in which it was created. It examines artwork, not only as an expression of individual artists, but also as a reflection of society and or the scientific and world events that occurred concurrent to its creation.

The course would have two elements unusual for a lecture series:

1. A strong emphasis on discussion, encouraging students to relate past events in their own lives and see parallels today.
2. Hands on studio classes, especially important for non-art majors, some of who may not have attempted to create art since they were small children.

Text: **Reference Division Booklist**

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

**Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 1**

**Studio/Lab Hours: 4\***

**\*Includes a weekly discussion module**

**Food and Drink are strictly prohibited in classrooms as per Health and Safety Laws. Students are not permitted to bring in chemicals or cleaning fluids without the appropriate MSD sheets.**

**Course Coordinator: Mike Welliver**

**Latest Review: Spring 2005**

## **I. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Mercer County Community College does not have a “cut system”; Students are expected to attend all classes of every course on their schedules. Only illness or serious personal matters may be considered adequate reasons for absence.

It is the prerogative of the instructor to excuse absences for valid reasons, provided the student will be able to fulfill all course requirements.

Student performance in classes is formally verified at the middle of each full semester. If a student’s attendance has been infrequent or performance unsatisfactory, he or she may receive a notification in the mail. At any time, the instructor may withdraw the student from class for insufficient attendance.

## **II. GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

An understanding of Art, both its history and the place it has in our culture, is necessary to a well-rounded education. It is equally important to be able to put the barrage of visual stimuli that surround us daily into perspective. This course will help students develop the intellectual tools to critically examine art in its many forms and to understand its relevance to their own lives and those of their friends, families and society.

It will offer an overview for students who find History of Art too intensive and Basic Drawing too narrow to fit into their programs. It fulfills the need for basic literacy in the visual arts should students pursue more focused studies or discontinue their education.

## **III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

In order to complete the course satisfactorily, students must:

1. be able to understand and identify major art movements and place them within a historical context so that they can be enjoyed, appreciated and understood;
2. examine the interactions between art, psychology and technology;
3. recognize expanding knowledge as a catalyst for cultural change;
4. understand how art both reflects and affects society;
5. demonstrate awareness of art’s power to manipulate opinions, increase knowledge and inspire action in both positive and negative ways;
6. through studio work, gain not only practical art instruction, but also respect for those who have artistic talent and work hard to develop it.

#### IV. COURSE OF STUDY

Study will be divided into twenty topics presented over fifteen weeks.

They are:

<p><b><u>Week 1:</u></b>            1. Role of Art in Society            2. Images Created by Primitive Man  <i>(Video, <u>The Real Eye</u> – Create Mask for the culture found at MCCC)</i>  <i>(Studio: Design, Calligraphy)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Week 8:</u></b>            11. 1900, The great Exposition            12. Post Impressionism <i>(Studio: Painting)</i></p>
<p><b><u>Week 2:</u></b>            3. Totems, Charms, Fetishes and Symbols            4. Art and Storytelling  <i>(Studio: Shadow Puppet Morality Play)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Week 9:</u></b>            13. World War I-<i>(Studio Found-object sculpture)</i><i>Video, <u>WWI</u> series segment</i></p>
<p><b><u>Week 3:</u></b>            5. Art and Religious Dictates:            Non-Expressive Art  <i>(Studio: Basic Drawing, Proportion, Contour &amp; Cross- Contour)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Week 10:</u></b>            14. Era Between the Wars <i>Video segment, <u>The Great Dictator</u> (Studio: Mixed media collage: Portrait of Hitler)</i></p>
<p><b><u>Week 4:</u></b>            6. Representational Art:            Renaissance Masters            Video: <u>Masters of Illusion</u>  <i>(Studio: Basic Drawing Perspective)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Week 11:</u></b>            15. World War II,  <i>Video, <u>WW II</u> series segment</i>  <i>(Studio: Advertising Design)</i></p>
<p><b><u>Week 5:</u></b>            7. Artists and Commercial Media  <i>(Studio: Design, Calligraphy)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Week 12:</u></b>            16. Post War, Abstract Expressionism</p>
<p><b><u>Week 6:</u></b>            8. Photography            9. The Camera  <i>(Studio: Photo Montage)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Week 13:</u></b>            17. Pop Art, Op Art, Culture Shock and Alienation  <i>(Studio: Poster Design)</i>  <i>Video-Series Segment <u>Vietnam</u></i></p>
<p><b><u>Week 7:</u></b>            10. Impression  <i>(Studio: Color Theory, Painting)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Week 14:</u></b>            18. 80's and 90's-Art Redefined            19. Digital Media  <i>(Studio: Computer Graphics)</i></p>
	<p><b><u>Week 15:</u></b>            20. Digital Media, continued            Conclusion-Art: a new definition, relevant today. <i>(Critique)</i></p>

## **COURSE OF STUDY** (cont'd)

The course of will be comprised of integrated lecture and studio classes with regular discussion periods built into both. Lectures will be accompanied by slides and/or video will be given at the beginning of the period. Students will be expected to fully participate in and contribute to the subsequent discussions. They will be graded on their involvement.

In lieu of a textbook, short-copied excerpts of several will be supplied. Students will be required to have a loose-leaf notebook and build their own text. These notebooks will be used in classes for reference and be examined for a grade, based on the effort expended and the manner of presentation.

Studio classes will be graded accordingly to focus and participation rather than innate or learned ability. The subjects of the studio projects will be specific to the artistic period currently under study. There will be regular discussions about experiences in studio and students will be encouraged to share their impressions with their peers.

A materials fee will be required to cover the cost of paper, pencils, brushes, acrylics etc...for the studio classes. Since they will not be using any one medium more for a few times, it is more cost-effective to purchase in bulk. It also assures that no student will be without the right tool on the day when it is required.

## **V. OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Research, either by means of books or on-line, will be required throughout the course. A time-line for each period being discussed will be kept to provide a concrete picture of events occurring around the world concurrently. These will be placed in the notebook. A list of supplemental books and videos to be found in the Library will be provided.

Students will also be required to identify and bring to class, relevant examples in today's culture of objects or processes having similar artistic, psychological or utilitarian functions to those under discussion.

There will be a term paper due at the end of the semester, accounting for 10% of the final grade.

## **VI. EVALUATION**

Students will be graded according to the following criteria:

<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meets all course specific objectives.</li><li>• Outstanding, distinguished participation in class discussions.</li><li>• Focused in studio classes and works well with other students in-group projects.</li><li>• Notebook is kept up-to-date and shows effort in preparation and presentation</li><li>• Brings to class relevant examples of current cultural phenomena to share with classmates.</li><li>• Term paper is well-thought out and reflects depth of understanding.</li><li>• Observes rules of courtesy and arrives for classes on-time.</li></ul>
<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Above average, but <u>one</u> of the above criteria is average or below</li></ul>
<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undistinguished, performs all of the requirements to a satisfactory minimum</li></ul>
<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deficient, unsatisfactory</li></ul>
<b>F</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Failure to meet even minimum requirements</li></ul>