

ARH 301

## Introduction to Visual Art

The University of Texas at Austin  
Spring 2019  
Unique Number: 19605  
T/TH, 3:30-5:00 pm  
[ART 1.110](#)

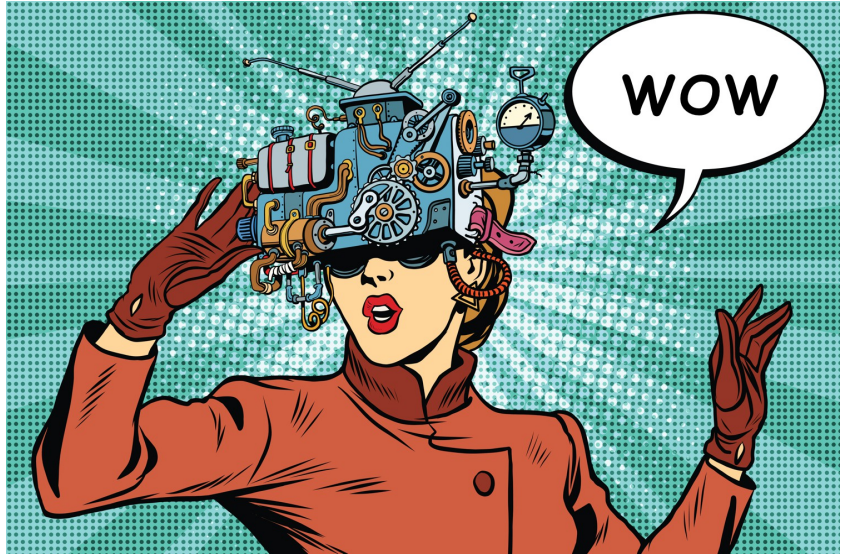
Course Instructor

**Nader Sayadi**

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College of Fine Arts

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Office hours: Wed 2:00-300 pm, and  
by appointment  
[DFA 2.108](#)



### Course Description:

This is an introductory course in art and architectural history. The course is designed in two sections: first, we will explore the art and built-environment of some of the prominent civilizations of the Old World. In this section, we will learn how to look at objects and spaces from the past. Second, we will be focused on a particular period, roughly between the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, in the Islamic lands and will learn more in-depth some aspects of the art and architecture of this era.

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should, therefore, expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

### Learning Objectives:

This course aims to help students to develop a series of skills in understanding and appreciation of art and architecture. In order to accomplish this objective, this course situates major works of visual, material culture, and built environment within the relevant historical and geographical contexts to which they belonged. By taking this course, the students are expected to see the world of art from an interpretive perspective. The course will provide a suitable platform for students to engage with a glimpse of cultural diversity in the world we live today. Furthermore, this course offers an opportunity to expand students' general knowledge of important non-western cultural contexts. One of the main goals of this course is to practice how to see things, how to make relevant questions to those things, and how to find possible answers. There are no prerequisites for this class.

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## Readings

All readings will be available on the course's Canvas website. You should read all the assigned readings before each class. There might be some additional readings for some weeks. Unless a reading is marked as additional, it is required to be read. Although the additional readings are not mandatory, they are highly recommended.

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## Grading Components and Scale:

Course Attendance and Participation	20%
Reading Responses	15%
Assignments	20%
Two Exams (see the time table below)	30%
Term Paper Assignment (see the time table below)	15%

93 to 100 %	A
90 to 92%	A-
87 to 89%	B+
83 to 86%	B
80 to 82%	B-
77 to 79%	C+
73 to 76%	C
70 to 72%	C-
60 to 69%	D
59% or less	F

- **Reading Responses:** You are required to write weekly reading response exercises. The readings will be available on Canvas. Each response should be 1-2 page long and should be delivered in Times New Roman 12 point font, 1-inch margins, pdf format via Canvas (designated folder) by 12 PM on the day it is due. For your response, choose one idea from the readings assigned for a given day, and explain why you find it interesting, then relate that idea to a work of art or architecture. The latter need not be the subject of the reading. These need not be formal essays but must engage with the readings. These responses will help you with completing the research paper and the final exam.
- **Assignments:** You are required to do the weekly assignments. The instructions will be available on Canvas. It is your responsibility to read the instructions and occasionally read the supplementary readings to be able to do the assignment. Each assignment should be delivered in Times New Roman 12 point font, 1-inch margins, pdf format via Canvas (designated folder) by 12 PM on the day it is due.

- **Exams:** There will be two exams. Each of them will include two or three essay questions on the themes and contents covered either in lectures or readings. Exams are not cumulative but there might be some works of art from the previous sections of the course for the sake of comparison.
- **Term paper assignment:** See the instructions posted on Canvas.

### Submissions:

- All reading responses, assignments and your term paper are due in **digital-copy on Canvas**.
- The only acceptable format is pdf unless, I change this policy later during the semester. Save or print your doc file in pdf.
- Name your files as below:
  - First nameLast name-assignment (or weekly reading response) number. No space between first and last names.
    - an example of assignment 3:  
NaderSayadi-assignment03
    - an example of reading responses from week 5:  
NaderSayadi-readings05
- Name your term paper file as below:
  - First nameLast name-TermPaper.
    - an example:  
NaderSayadi-TermPaper
- All assignments are due before the class based on the schedule given in the table below. Upload your files before coming to the class. If your assignment is late, you will get only half-credit.
- All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Remember that you must upload each assignment in the folder dedicated to that week. If you accidentally upload your file in another folder, I may not find it and therefore you may get an F for it.
- If your file does not open, it will be considered as an F. Be sure that your files work before submission.

### Attendance

- **Attendance and participation count as 20% of your final grade** and will be taken every week. In the beginning of each class, there might be in-class worksheets available. You should complete these during the lecture and return them at the end of the class. Do not forget to write your name on your sheets. If there is no worksheet for the day, there will be a sign-up sheet. Do not forget to write your name on the sign-up sheet at the beginnings of each class. In order to get easy access to either of these, **do not be late to our class!**
- Possible Exceptions to Late Policy:
  - Official **Department of Intercollegiate Athletics** travel days are approved and do not take up your excused absences. HOWEVER, you must still inform me or your grader of your impending absences through the proper paperwork. You are still responsible for any assignments due. If travel days fall on any quizzes or tests in the course calendar of this syllabus, please notify the instructor so arrangements can be made in advance.

- If you have an **illness, injury, personal or family emergency**, your absence will be excused only with notification from the Student Emergency Services in the Office of the Dean of Students: familiarize yourself with their response to student needs and absences from class: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/students.php>
- **Religious holidays:** By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least **fourteen days prior to the date of observance** of a religious holy day. You will be given an opportunity to complete missed work.

## Communication

- Please be sure that your email address is up-to-date as I will use Canvas as the primary method for delivering announcements to you outside of class time. **You are responsible for checking your email regularly and keeping the university informed about changes to your e-mail address.** You can find instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>

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## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Mar 14: First exam

Apr 9: Term paper due

May 7: Second exam

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## **Important note:**

Regarding UT Campus Carry Policy: If you are a concealed carrier, I should neither hear about nor see your gun in my classroom, in lecture, my office, or during our outdoor sessions if applicable. As per policy, I am obligated to contact UTPD if you violate these guidelines.

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## **Research and Editing Resources**

- **Relevant Libraries**
  - Architecture and Planning Library (BTL)
  - Benson Latin American Library (LAC)
  - Harry Ransom Center (HRC)
  - Perry-Casteñeda Library (PCL)
- **Image Sources (ALWAYS CITE!)**
  - UT Austin's Image Databases: <https://www.lib.utexas.edu/indexes/titles.php?type=Image%20Collections>
  - DASE
  - ARTStor
  - Oxford Art Online

- **Study Resources**

- Sanger Learning Center (SLC): <https://ugs.utexas.edu/slc/study>
- University Writing Center (UWC): <http://uwc.utexas.edu>

**\*Students with disabilities** may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. Please inform me privately, **well in advance of any exam** with the official University paperwork, and we will accommodate your needs.

## **University of Texas Honor Code and Academic Misconduct**

- **Academic Integrity**

- The University's Honor Code states that "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:
- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek assistance in preparing them;
- avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.
- For the official policies on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty, please refer to Chapter 11 of the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities*. Familiarize yourself with the Honor Code here: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

- **Academic Dishonesty**

- In promoting a high standard of academic integrity, the University broadly defines academic dishonesty - basically, all conduct that violates this standard, including *any act designed to give an unfair or undeserved academic advantage*, such as:
- Cheating, Plagiarism, Unauthorized Collaboration / Collusion
- Falsifying Academic Records or Misrepresenting Facts (e.g., providing false information to postpone an exam, obtain an extended deadline for an assignment, or even gain an unearned financial benefit)
- Multiple submissions (e.g., submitting the same written assignment for two courses without authorization)
- Any other acts (or attempted acts) that violate the basic standard of academic integrity
- Please be aware that UT Austin policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties. If you have questions, please visit [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis\\_whatdis.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_whatdis.php).
- In addition to violations such as cheating on a test: 1) Be careful when composing your

essays not to copy or *paraphrase* directly from the article without a citation; without a reference, such act can constitute plagiarism. 2) The assignments are not collaborative; all writing (essays, discussion comments, etc.) should reflect your ideas. If you have concerns over what constitutes scholastic honesty in writing, please contact the Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu>

- **TLDR;** University standards for academic integrity pertain to materials **downloaded from the Internet** in addition to books, articles, and other students' work. ***Your work should be your own, if it is not, it should be cited appropriately.***

### **Campus Resources for Undergraduate Students Regarding Mental Health**

There are myriad resources available to you if you should find yourself in distress, in need of counselling, or a victim of assault, harassment, or hate speech. If you want to utilize these resources but are confused about whom to contact, PLEASE feel free to ask me or contact the Office of the Dean ([deanofstudents@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@austin.utexas.edu) or in person at SSB 4.400). Unfortunately, I cannot promise that I will not disclose any information you share with me to these appropriate channels.

- Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL):

(512) 232-5050 (available 24/7 days, 365 days a year)

- Student Emergency Services

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/index.php>

- UT Counseling and Mental Health Center Crisis Line:

(512) 471-2255; <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>

- Reporting Misconduct, Harassment, Assault, or Hate Speech:

- Against another UT Student:

Student Judicial Services online referral form: (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>)

Contact: Student Services Building (SSB) 4.104 or (512) 471-2841 or [sjs@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:sjs@austin.utexas.edu)

- Against a UT Faculty/Staff Member:

***Office of the Dean: SSB 4.400; [deanofstudents@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@austin.utexas.edu)***

<u>Weekly schedule</u>				
Section I: Art and Architecture of the Old World				
Week 1	L01	T, Jan 22	Introduction/ Basics	-
	L02	TH, Jan 24	Pre-history/ Mesopotamia	Assignment 01 due
Week 2	L03	T, Jan 29	Pre-history/ Mesopotamia	Reading response 01 due [readings of Jan 24 & 29]
	L04	TH, Jan 31	Ancient Egypt	Assignment 02 due
Week 3	L05	T, Feb 5	Ancient Egypt	Reading response 02 due [readings of Jan 31 & Feb 5]
	L06	TH, Feb 7	Greek Art	Assignment 03 due
Week 4	L07	T, Feb 12	Greek Art	Reading response 03 due [Readings of Feb 7 & 12]
	L08	TH, Feb 14	Roman Art	Assignment 04 due
Week 5	L09	T, Feb 19	Roman Art	Reading response 04 due [Readings of Feb 14 & 19]
	L10	TH, Feb 21	Byzantine/Early Christian Art	Assignment 05 due
Week 6	L11	T, Feb 26	Byzantine/Early Christian Art	Reading response 05 due [Readings of Feb 21 & 26]
	L12	TH, Feb 28	Mesoamerica	Assignment 06 due
Week 7	L13	T, Mar 5	Mesoamerica	Reading response 06 due [Readings of Feb 28 & Mar 5]
	L14	TH, Mar 7	Buddhist/Hindu Art	Assignment 07 due
Week 8	L15	T, Mar 12	Buddhist/Hindu Art	Reading response 07 due [Readings of Mar 7 & 12]
	-	TH, Mar 14	<b><u>EXAM 1</u></b>	<b><u>No assignment due</u></b>
Week 9	-	T, Mar 19	Spring break	-
	-	TH, Mar 21	Spring break	-
Section II: Art and Architecture of the Late Medieval and Early Modern Eras				
Week 10	L16	T, Mar 26	The Early Modern World System, and intro to Islamic art and arch	Assignment 08 due
	L17	TH, Mar 28	Ilkhanids	Reading response 08 due [Readings of Mar 26 & 28]
Week 11	L18	T, Apr 2	Timurids	Assignment 09 due
	L19	TH, Apr 4	Mamluks	Reading response 09 due [Readings of Apr 2 & 4]

Week 12	L20	T, Apr 9	Ottomans	<b><u>No assignment (TERM PAPER due)</u></b>
	Movie	TH, Apr 11	Ottomans	Reading response 10 due [Readings of Apr 9 & 11]
Week 13	L21	T, Apr 16	Safavids	Assignment 10 due
	L22	TH, Apr 18	Safavids	Reading response 11 due [Readings of Apr 16 & 18]
Week 14	L23	T, Apr 23	Mughals	Assignment 11 due
	L24	TH, Apr 25	Mughals	Reading response 12 due [Readings of Apr 23 & 25]
Week 15	L25	T, Apr 30	Southeastern Africa	Assignment 12 due
	L26	TH, May 2	Southeastern Africa	Reading response 13 due [Readings of Apr 30 & May 2]
Week 16	-	T, May 7	<b><u>EXAM 2 + Conclusions</u></b>	<b><u>No assignment due</u></b>
	-	TH, May 9	<b><u>No Class</u></b>	-