

Chabot College Distance Education Course Proposal

Art 1: Introduction to Art

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1. Need/Justification

- My intent by proposing Art 1: Introduction to Art to be taught as a Distance Education course is multi-faceted.

An online section of Art 1 is needed to strengthen the existing Distance Education curriculum. Across the College curriculum, introductory level classes are offered online. Art 1 is similar to other introductory courses as a wide variety of students take Art 1 to fulfill curriculum requirements.

Existing sections of the Art 1 course are full classes, including evening and weekend classes. Offering Art 1 online would allow students an alternative to the existing course schedules, thus balancing the teaching load of Art 1 courses. The student's ability to study art around his/her schedule is a key asset to a Distance Education section of the Art 1 course.

Art 1 is an introductory level class that can be successfully taught through a variety of teaching styles, including online teaching and learning methods. I have more than three years experience designing and teaching a similar course, Art Appreciation as a Distance Learning course for Haywood Community College in Clyde, NC.

The Art 1 curriculum encourages the student's independent development of critical thinking and writing skills, while learning to look at and engage art. Students benefit from group discussion as well as independent study of the art works. The mixture of group and independent projects in an online Art 1 course is appropriate to the study of visual art.

2. Course Content Delivery

- The Distance Education section of Art 1 will be taught as an online course. All assignments, discussions, quizzes, tests, and grades will be available through the Blackboard course site. Students will have primary contact with the instructor via email correspondence.
- The course work for DE Art 1 (6.75 weekly contact hours) consists of:
 - Weekly readings from the textbook, Mark Getlein, Gilbert's Living with Art. 7th edition. New York & Boston: McGraw Hill, 2004. (2 hours weekly)
 - Weekly assignments and discussions on Art 1 course site and other art-related web sites. (3.5 hours weekly)
 - Tests and quizzes. (1 hour weekly)

- Email correspondence/office visit with instructor. (.25 hours weekly)
- The curriculum and course calendar of the Distance Education section of Art 1 will correspond to my on-campus section of Art 1. Students in the online course will have the option of sitting in my lecture classes to supplement their online curriculum.
- Students in the online Art 1 course can meet with me in person during my weekly office hours on the Chabot College campus.

3. Nature and Frequency of Instructor-Student Interactions

- The Art 1 Distance Education course will utilize asynchronous technology. The Blackboard course site will be the central location of information and communication from the instructor to the students. Assignments, announcements, discussions, and general communication will be posted on the course site throughout the semester. Students will check the course site each week for information and assignments. This Distance Education course teaches students to be self-motivated, independent thinkers who can direct their own study. The structure of the course encourages students to discover their independent interests in art through exposure to new artists and ideas. Students are able to choose the artworks and artists to discuss in the assignments, and are thus encouraged to forge new interests, or reconsider the familiar.
- A typical weekly assignment involves an online assignment to supplement the textbook reading. The assignment directs the student to visit other art websites to study additional examples of art works, artists, and readings. Students study the art works, artists, and ideas and respond to the assignment's content in weekly written essays and online discussions. The essays are evaluated based on the student's ability to discuss the ideas, artists, and the artwork itself. The discussion forum for the class will be evaluated based on participation and content of the discussion.
- Students will receive graded assignments throughout the semester to gauge their progress. Grades will be available on the course site. Students will also receive written comments on their assignments. Students who need more attention and explanation of the assignment's content, or help understanding course concepts and artworks, are encouraged to come to my lectures, ask for clarification through email or in the discussion forum, or come to my office hours to receive in-person help.
- Students who complete assignments on time, stay up to date on the discussion forums, and have positive assignment evaluations are considered to be making satisfactory progress in the course. Students are responsible for keeping up with course work and for notifying the instructor in cases of emergency, sickness, etc. The instructor will intervene to warn students that they are falling behind, have poor performance, and other circumstances, which could affect the student's grade. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course, if necessary.

4. Assignments and Methods of Evaluation

- Students will be evaluated based on the course objectives:
 - To engage art through an understanding of the visual elements and principles of design.
 - To identify processes and materials of making art.
 - To describe and analyze art in terms of form and content.
 - To identify conceptual and stylistic elements in art.
 - To identify and describe modes of representation including representational, abstract, and non-representational art.
- To ensure student participation, the course assignments are regularly scheduled throughout the semester and the required online discussion forum is a weekly part of the curriculum. Due to the regular frequency of the assignments, students receive frequent comments and grades to assess progress and areas of needed improvement.

5. Technical Support

- Technology necessary for the proposed DE Art 1 course includes building a Blackboard course website, maintenance of the course site for both faculty and students, and technical help for both faculty and students. The Blackboard course site needs to contain an image gallery and/or archive. The quality and capacity for the course site to support digital images is extremely necessary for the success of the proposed DE Art 1 course.

6. Student Services

- While the proposed DE Art 1 course is to be taught online, students will need to access most student services in person on the Chabot College campus. Students in Art 1 could benefit from all the college's resources, especially learning and writing resources, library materials, and tutoring.

7. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

- Accommodations for students with disabilities will be reviewed and implemented on a person by person basis.

8. Class Size and First Term to be offered

- I plan to offer Art 1 as a Distance Education course for Chabot College beginning in the Spring 2007 semester. The standard class size limit for DE Art 1 is 30 students.