

**NorthWest Arkansas Community College**  
**Division of Communications and Art**  
**Art Department**

**Course Number and Title**

ARHS 1013, Creative Thinking and Practice

**Catalog Description**

A survey course that explores the definitions, classifications, aesthetics, criticism, and controversies in contemporary art and visual culture. Activities include reading, writing, discussion, and museum visits.

**Prerequisites**

Recommended prerequisite or Co-requisite ENGL 1013.

**Credit hours/Contact hours/load hours**

3/3/3

**Target Audience/Transferability**

Designed for art students transferring to art programs of four-year colleges and working toward a bachelor's degree in art, or for students completing the art requirements for the two year NWACC Associate of Fine Arts degree in Visual Art, under which, this course is a core requirement. Successful completion of this course should prepare students for further study in the art and design fields. ARHS 1013 will transfer to the University of Arkansas as only part of the total requirements for Studio Foundations I and II. The following classes will transfer as a group for both of University of Arkansas' Studio Foundations' blocks: Creative Thinking and Practice (ARHS 1013), Drawing I (ART 1303), Design I (ART 1313) OR 2D Design (ART 1333), 3D Design (ART 1323), Computer Applications for Fine Art (ART 2313), Color Theory (ART 2343) OR Color Studies (ART 2333), and 3D Animation (ART 2273). Students interested in transferring to the University of Arkansas' School of Art, should contact the Assistant Director of Academic Advising at the J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Arkansas for help with transfer of credits from NWACC.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students completing this course will:

- Develop the skills needed for creative and productive idea generation.
- Effectively conduct and critically assess art related research.
- Develop an understanding of postmodern art approaches and classifications of Contemporary art theory.
- Hone skills in critical analysis of challenging and/or unconventional artworks.
- Develop multiple methods of documenting and communicating ideas.
- Cultivate new habits outside one's creative comfort zone.
- Learn basics of the written and oral critique process.

**Topics**

Topics include but are not limited to the following:

The elements of the creative process

Classifications of Contemporary Art including:

Realism, Expressionism/Cognitivism, Formalism, & postmodern pluralism

Concepts in Synectics:

Analogy, Imaging and Transforming, Signals/Signs/Symbols, Myth & Mythmaking, Ritual/Game/Performance, and Paradox

Criticism in Contemporary Art

The discipline of keeping a sketchbook

Outsider art

Approaches to postmodern art-making including but not limited to:

Escaping the confines of museums, collapsing boundaries between “high” and “low” art, rejecting “originality,” working collaboratively, appropriating, simulating, hybridizing, mixing media, layering, mixing codes, recontextualizing, confronting the gaze, facing the abject, constructing identities, using narratives, and creating metaphors