



**Thames at Mitchell College
The Art of College Syllabus
Summer 2026**

Course Title: The Art of College
Course Number:
Class Meeting Time: ☐ 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
Classroom: NH 107
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 P.M.
Instructors: Karen D'Agostino, LCSW
Teresa Benner, MST

Office location: Matteson Hall, Room 108 and 109
Phone number: Karen: 860 701-3575 Teresa: 860 701-5162
E-mail Address: dagostino_k@Mitchell.edu benner_t@Mitchell.edu

Additional Readings: As assigned

Required Materials for Every Class: Folder or notebook with pockets, notebook paper, writing utensils, laptop (charged)

Catalog Course Description

In this course, students will demonstrate fundamental skills required for successfully attending and performing in college classrooms. The subject of art is our vehicle to introduce and reinforce key skills. With topics ranging from photography to sculpture to graffiti, we acquaint students with college-level expectations. Lessons include traditional lectures, guest speakers, and excursions to local art museums and installations.

General College Policies

Civility

It is the right of every college student to be educated in an environment that is free of distraction from the educational activities being conducted in the classroom. To support a student's right to a distraction-free educational environment, students engaged in any type of disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted as absent from the class.

Communication

Students are required to obtain and use a Mitchell College e-mail account for all departmental and College communications. Students are responsible for monitoring email for classroom instructions. All assignments/information will be posted on Moodle.

College ADA Statement (effective August 2021)

Mitchell College complies with the mandates created by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In accordance with these laws, Mitchell College is committed to ensuring that no otherwise qualified student, on the basis of their disability, will be denied access to course content, materials or activities.

Students who believe they need accommodations should contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 860-701-5790. Accommodations are not retroactive and cannot be provided by faculty based upon disability until the Letter of Accommodation has been issued by Accessibility Services. Letters of accommodation must be updated each semester. If students have questions or concerns, they should contact the Office of Accessibility Services. More information can be found in the Course Catalog and by visiting the Accessibility Services webpage at www.mitchell.edu/access.

Policy on Academic Honesty

Penalties and procedures regarding academic dishonesty are defined in the College Catalog. Academic dishonesty includes the following: using the work of another individual – including another student – as one's own, using non-approved resources during quizzes or exams, submitting the same research paper for multiple classes and/or the unauthorized use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please refer to the College Catalog for the procedure required when an instructor has evidence of academic dishonesty.

As described in the Mitchell College policy manual, "students at Mitchell College are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct." By enrolling in this course, students agree that they understand and swear to adhere to those rules. Failure to adhere to these rules will affect a student's grades. Cheating and/or plagiarism on any assessment will result in a score of zero for that assignment and the incident will be reported to the academic dean. Cheating on the final exam will result in course failure.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas in your writing. If you use any ideas, thoughts, writing, quotes, or even paraphrase some other writer's thinking, you must acknowledge the source. Whether conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Consequences for plagiarism can range from failing the assignment to failing the course. Please familiarize yourself with the college's policy. You can access the policy as well as resources to help you avoid plagiarism on the library's plagiarism guide at <http://mitchell.libguides.com/CW101>.

Departmental Policies

Assignments

Students who miss three assignments in this class will receive an email from their instructor to participate in an academic meeting with the Director and/or Assistant Director of Thames at Mitchell College.

Make-up Policy

Late work may be accepted, at the discretion of the instructor. Students should contact the instructor via email or during office hours if an assignment will not be handed in on time. Two grade points will be deducted for each day past the date for submission. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and to make up any missed lessons and/or assignments. If there are questions regarding an assignment, students should meet with instructors during office hours or email instructors for an appointment.

Attendance Policy

It is expected that students attend every class prepared and on time. Tardiness, leaving class prior to dismissal, or being absent for a significant portion of the class, will be calculated as a .5 absence. It is the student's responsibility to see the instructor, during office hours, to obtain any missed handouts/notes/assignments. Excused absences, with an email to the instructor prior to the start of class, will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Director of Thames at Mitchell College.

Anyone dismissed from class will be marked absent for the day. Students who miss two classes will receive an email from their instructor to participate in an academic meeting with the Director and/or Assistant Director of Thames at Mitchell College.

Classroom Participation

In addition to regular attendance, students are expected to arrive on time, be prepared for each class, submit assignments by the due date, and fully participate in class discussions and activities.

Classroom decorum during the instructional process is based on mutual respect: instructor for student, student for instructor, and student for student. Respect for one another is demonstrated by the following behaviors: listening attentively when another person (student or instructor) is speaking, staying alert, paying attention and contributing to class. Sleeping, talking inappropriately or doing other work during a lecture or video will result in a zero for the day, which will affect the participation grade for the course. No warning will be issued. Anyone dismissed from class will be marked absent for the day. No one will be readmitted without meeting with the instructor beforehand.

Leaving Class

Students leaving class for breaks are not expected to ask permission. Phones should be left in the classroom. Extended absence from class time will result in a .5 reduction in attendance.

Cell Phone and Computer Use Policy

Cell phones are to be put away (in backpacks) and silenced before class begins. If this becomes a problem, students will be asked to place phones on the instructor's desk. If a student has an emergency, phones should be placed on vibrate, and the instructor should be notified before class begins. Laptop

use will be at the discretion of the instructor. If laptops are being utilized for notes, other websites should not be accessed during class time.

Ability Based Education

ABE partners the intellectual abilities cultivated by the liberal arts and sciences with the professional skills and personal development required to compete in the global economy. As students' progress through their programs of study, they will collect evidence (papers, videos, presentations, projects, etc.) that document their level of mastery. There are three levels of mastery:

1. Developing
2. Competent
3. Distinguished

Students must achieve at least Level 2, Competent, in 5 of 7 abilities. The seven abilities to be assessed prior to graduation from Mitchell College are:

1. Critical & Creative Thinking
2. Communication
3. Diversity and Global Perspectives
4. Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT Literacy)
5. Problem Solving and Analysis
6. Values, Ethics & Social Responsibility
7. Social Interaction

Course-Specific Information

ABE Abilities to be Assessed: Communication Ability: Level 1

Description of Communications Ability: The ability to exchange information utilizing modes appropriate for varied audiences and purposes; this includes converting thoughts and ideas for the purpose of shared meaning through writing, speaking, multi-media, and active listening.

Course-Specific Information

Technology Use During Class

Fully charged laptops are required in class. Assignments are intended to promote reflection and critical thinking and provide opportunities to practice written communication. AI is often a useful tool, but final submissions must be the original authentic work of each student. If AI is utilized, it should be cited using APA citation methods.

Written Assignment Formatting

All written assignments must be typed and formatted using MLA style. Please refer to the MLA Guide on Moodle. Papers should be proofread for spelling and grammar prior to submitting. Credit to outside sources must be cited appropriately. Points will be deducted from your grade for any errors or omissions of the above requirements.

Assignments Submitted on Moodle

Unless otherwise notified, all assignments should be submitted on Moodle. Assignments should be opened in your classroom file, and saved as the name of the assignment.

Schedule

Summer 2026

	Date	Lesson	Focus Skills
1	Monday July 13	Introduction Pop Art Skill Session	Classroom Etiquette Syllabus Self Assessment Critical Thinking/Active learning Time Management
2	Tuesday July 14	Art through the Ages Skill Session	Outlining Note Taking Applying knowledge
3	Wednesday July 15	Portrait of an Artist Skill Session	Collaborative Research Lyman Allen Art Museum
4	Thursday July 16	Graffiti Skill Session	Annotating Creating Questions from Information
5	Friday July 17	Murals (Walking tour) Skill Session	Teamwork/Navigating Including Detail and Elaboration
6	Monday July 20	Is it Art? Skill Session	Classroom discussion Civil Discourse/Debate Individual Goal Setting
7	Tuesday July 21	Photography: Guest Lecturer Skill Session (Photo shoot at Harkness Park)	Following instructions/Rubrics Teamwork
8	Wednesday July 22	PowerPoint Presentations Skill Session	Groupwork Organization Editing
9	Thursday July 23	Presentation to class	Public Speaking

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time as required by the instructor