

ART 1503 - Freshman Seminar and Portfolio Review

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41153,

Credit hours: 1

Instructor

Jonathan Sperry

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor

Professional Qualifications:

Master of Fine Arts, Studio Art, Indiana University

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art, Southern Methodist University

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Southern Methodist University

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Course Description

1503. Freshman Seminar and Portfolio Review. The Freshman Seminar helps students establish a solid foundation for success in the Department of Art. Students learn conventions and strategies within critical thinking, writing and research skills specific to success as an art and design student at YSU as well as being a creative professional. A mandatory Foundation Portfolio Review of work must be completed in the freshman Foundation Studio courses for students seeking the BFA in Studio Art degree. Students both complete the work in the seminar and pass the review to pass the course and continue in the program. Prereq.: ART 1501, ART 1502, and ART 1521. 1 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	How to Be an Artist	Jerry Saltz	978-0593086469

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Wed	8/26		Course introduction	
Wed	9/2		Portfolio Review: Joe D'Uva	
Wed	9/9		Dérive: Butler Institute of American Art, Maag Library	
Wed	9/16		Ask an Alumni Anything: TBD	
Wed	9/23		Machines, Big and Small: Chauncey Hay	
Wed	9/30		Advising: TBD	FPR Application
Wed	10/7		McDonough Museum of Art: Claudia Berlinski	
Wed	10/14		Interdisciplinary Studio Art Track: TBD	
Wed	10/21	How to Be an Artist, Jerry Saltz	Defending the Hated Rules	POST Loved and Hated Rule(s) by Monday, October 19, NOON
Wed	10/28		Graphic and Interactive Design Track: Michelle Nelson, Amy Copeland, Sebastian	

Wed	11/4	Ask an Alumni Anything: TBD	
Wed	11/11	NO CLASS: Veteran's Day	Hang portfolio, on the wall by Tuesday, MIDNIGHT
Wed	11/18	How to Be an Artist, Jerry Saltz	Defending the Hated Artwork List POST: Hate List (with images) by Monday, November 16, NOON
Wed	11/25	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING	
Wed	12/2	Ask Dana Anything	
Wed	12/9	Freshman Year Debrief	

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.