9-2013

ARTH 250L.01: Introduction to Art Criticism

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School of Art
ArH 250L, Introduction to Art Criticism, 3 credits
Literary and Artistic Studies and Writing course
TTH 11:10-12:30, Fall Semester 2013, Fine Arts Building 302

Associate Professor Valerie Hedquist, 305A Fine Arts Building
E-mail: valerie.hedquist@umontana.edu
Office hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m. and Wednesday 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Course description: An overview of the description, interpretation, and evaluation of visual art as practiced in the discipline of art criticism. Both traditional and postmodern critical approaches to art will be considered with an emphasis on contemporary art criticism. Students will read a range of past and present art critics and write several examples of art criticism based on direct observation of contemporary art works.

Learning Objectives:
• Develop improved observation and analysis of art
• Comprehend and use various interpretive perspectives
• Develop aesthetic evaluative criteria and apply them to contemporary art
• Become familiar with contemporary artists and art works through first-hand viewing and careful reading of art criticism
• Improve communication skills through writing brief responses to weekly questions and three 3-5 page papers


Requirements for Course: You are expected to attend lectures. Students will complete all assignments in order to earn credit for the class. Students are expected to keep copies of all assigned work. Students will utilize Moodle at http://umonline.umt.edu/ for course syllabus, lectures, assignments, other course materials, announcements, and grades.

Assignments and Points Distribution:

Library assignment: 100 points total
Three papers: visual analysis, interpretation, and judgment: 100 points each; (300 points total)
Peer-review reports: 10 points each, (30 points total)
Weekly Writing: 10 points weekly, (140 points total)

Grades are calculated as follows, based on all work completed:

570-526, A; 525-513, A-
512-602, B++; 501-468, B; 467-456, B-
455-445, C++; 444-411, C; 410-399, C-
398-388, D++; 387-354, D; 353-342, D-
341 and lower F

Students with disabilities or special needs should contact the instructor.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

Events in the School of Art are listed at the electronic bulletin board: http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com/
Check it out!
Local Art Scene: A Short List:

UC Art Gallery: http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/uc_gallery/
School of Art Gallery of Art, GVA, http://www.umt.edu/art/galleries/gva

Lecture and Discussion Topics and Assignments

Week One, 27 and 29 August
Lecture: Introduction and What is Art?
Moodle Introduction
Definitions and changing ideas of art
Receive and begin discussion of cases from Puzzles about Art, An Aesthetics Casebook

Introduction to Art Resource Center (Hours: To be determined) and on-campus art venues, including Main Hall, University Center Art Gallery (M-F10-4:00), MMAC, Paxson/Meloy (TWSat 12:00-3:00; THF12-6:00), GVA, Gallery of Visual Art (TWF 11-5:00; TH 11-6:00), MAM, (Tuesday - Saturday 10-5, Sunday noon-5)

UC Art Gallery, Macrocosm, by Jessica Mongeon, Aug 26 - Septr 27, Reception: Aug29 4PM-6PM
MMAC, Henry Freedman: Imagining New Worlds, August 8 - September 21, 2013, Paxson Gallery
MMAC, Four Collections, August 8 - September 21, 2013, Meloy Gallery
GVA, September 3-25, Accumulation/Transformation: School of Art Faculty Exhibition

Week Two, 3 and 5 September
What is Art?
Visit the School of Art Faculty Exhibition in Gallery of Visual Arts
Puzzles about Art, An Aesthetics Casebook discussion ongoing
Receive art criticism selections regarding Christian Marclay and discuss

September 5 Faculty lecture by Associate Professor Valerie Hedquist, “Miss Linwood’s Picture Gallery in Leicester Square”, 5:10-6 pm, Social Science Building, Room 356, followed by opening reception for Accumulation/Transformation: School of Art Faculty Exhibition, 6-7 pm, Gallery of Visual Arts
MAM, Sara Siestreem: BALLAST, Artist Reception: September 6, 5-9 PM, Gallery Talk: September 6, 7 PM, Artist Tour, September 7, 12 PM

Week Three, 10 and 12 September
What is Art Criticism?
Past and Present Critics, Writing about Art
Read: Barrett, Preface, Chapter 1

MMAC, Tuesday, September 10, 7pm, Masquer Theater, Artist’s talk with Henry Freedman
MMAC, Saturday, September 14, 12pm, Paxson Gallery, Gallery tour with artist Henry Freedman limited to 28 people, RSVP at 243-2019

Week Four, 17 and 19 September
Visit from Writing Center Director, Kelly Webster, 17 September
Information about writing and reading for college success
Information about the UDWPA (Upper Division Writing Proficiency Assessment)

The Task of the Critic: Description, Interpretation, and Evaluation
What do critics do?
Artist: Nathalie Djurberg
GVA, September 19 Visiting Artist Lecture by Del Harrow, 5:10 pm, Social Science Building, Room 356 Sponsored by the Jim and Jane Dew Visiting Artist Lecture Fund.

**Week Five, 24 and 26 September**

Finding Art Criticism
Library Resources and Assignment with Tammy Ravas, Fine Arts Librarian
24 September, Meet in Student Computer Lab, Floor 2, Mansfield Library during lecture time

Discuss Venice Biennale 2012
Receive art criticism selections regarding Maurizio Cattelan and Sarah Sze and discuss

GVA, September 25 Faculty lecture by Professor H. Rafael Chacón, “Wanted: Indian Art Majors”, 5:10-6 pm, Social Science Building, Room 356

**Library Assignment due date: 3 October**

**Week Six, 1 and 3 October**

Describing art, what do I see?
Read: Barrett, Chapters 3 and 6

Formal elements and principles of design

UC Art Gallery MSU Exit Gallery Visiting Exhibit, Septr 30 - Oct 26, Reception: Oct 3 4PM-6PM

MMAC, Figurative Modernists: Picasso, Chagall and other Masterpieces from a Private Collection, October 3, 2013-February 8, 2014, Meloy Gallery

MMAC, Modernist Prints, October 3, 2013-February 8, 2014, Paxson Gallery

GVA, October 3-24 Michael Murphy and Bernadette Sweeney: Without Having Ended, opening reception Thursday 10/3, 5-7 pm

MAM, Folk Art Lecture: Tom Patterson, Curator & Author, October 2, 6:30 PM, Free and Open to the Public, Exhibition Reception: October 4, 5-9 PM, Gallery Talk: Tom Patterson & Willem Volkersz, October 4, 7 PM

**Paper #1. Description Paper - Visual Analysis**

Peer review due date: 8 October
First due date: 10 October
Revision due: 17 October

**Weeks Seven and Eight, 8, 10, 15, and 17 October**

Interpreting art, what does it mean?

Changing approaches to meaning, past and present, traditional, modern, and postmodern

Read: Barrett, Chapters 2 and 4

Contemporary artists and what the art means

Interpretation of the works of Ken Price and James Turrell

**Paper #2. Interpretation Paper – What does it Mean?**

Peer review due date: 31 October
First due date: 5 November
Revision due: 14 November

**Weeks Nine and Ten, 22, 24, 29, and 31 October**

Evaluating art, what is good art?

Criteria for evaluating art, past and present

Read: Barrett, Chapter 5
Artist: Kehinde Wiley

How is contemporary art any good?
Evaluation of Establishing Criteria

Visiting Lecturers

UC Art Gallery, Assembly of Likeness, by Beth Lo, Stephanie Frostad, Lisa Jarrett, and Jennifer Pulchinski, October 28 - November 22, Reception: October 31 | 4PM-6PM
October 23 Steamroller Prints, 10-4, Fine Arts Building Oval
October 24 Visiting Artist Lecture by Nico Arze and Katiushka Melo, Location tba. Sponsored by the Jim and Jane Dew Visiting Artist Lecture Fund
MAM, MATRIX PRESS, Contemporary Collectors Circle: Jim Bailey, October 24, 5:30 PM

Week Eleven, 5 and 7 November
Museums/Galleries and Power
Who determines what you see?

Evaluating art, 17th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition
Opening Reception, Thursday, November, 5-7:00 p.m., Gallery of Visual Arts

Meet in Gallery of Visual Arts to determine ArtH250 awards

GVA, Nov 5 Visiting Artist Lecture by Sean Starwars, Social Science Building 356, 5:10-6 pm, Sponsored by the Jim and Jane Dew Visiting Artist Lecture Fund
GVA, November 7-December 5, 19th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, opening reception 11/7, 5-7 pm, award presentation, 6 pm
MAM, Kienholz Connection: Lecture Series, Beth Sellars, November 6, 7 PM
MAM, Christine Joy, Currents Artist Reception: November 1, 5-9 PM, Gallery Talk: Nov 1, 7 PM,

Week Twelve, 12 and 14 November
Controversy in Contemporary Art
Reasons and responses

MAM, Kienholz Connection: Ted Hughes, November 20, 7 PM

Week Thirteen, 19 and 21 November
Art Criticism of Contemporary Art Exhibitions
Consideration of leading arbiters of contemporary art

Paper #3, Evaluation Paper – Is it any good?
Peer review due date: 21 November
First due date: 26 November
Revision due: 5 December

Week Fourteen, 26 November
Contemporary Art about Food
See it and/or eat it?
Artist: Rirkrit Tiravanija

MAM, Kienholz Connection: Lecture Series, Raphael Chacón, December 4, 7 PM
Week Fifteen, 3 and 5 December
Who’s hot and who’s not?
Ten contemporary artists to share
Group Exchange

UC Art Gallery, Annual UCG Juried Exhibition, Dec 2 - Dec 13, Reception: Dec 5 4PM-6PM

MAM, Artists of Opportunity, Artist Reception: December 6, 5-9 PM;
Gallery Talk: Tom Lind, December 6, 7 PM