ARTZ 191.01: Special Topics - Art for Non-Majors

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Art for Non-Majors* introduces students to visual art and culture from both contemporary and historical perspectives through lectures, readings, writing, gallery visits, and studio projects. We will explore various components of visual literacy including terminology, techniques, aesthetics, studio practice, and cultural context.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

+ How does art communicate to individuals and function in a social context?
+ How has the definition of art changed through time?
+ Why does the general public often misunderstand art, both historically and currently?
+ How do time and place affect the creation and interpretation of art objects?
+ Are there ways in which to develop understanding of artworks and visual culture outside of reading and writing?

COURSE OUTCOMES

+ Student will express her/himself in the making of original artworks.
+ Student will understand the genres and forms that have shaped the visual arts over time.
+ Student will be able to successfully critique her/his own work and that of others.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course outline is posted on Moodle. In addition, you will find a detailed syllabus below. Keep in mind that the syllabus and course outline are subject to change. Such changes are in response to students' needs and to the scheduling needs of the University and the School of Art. Any said changes will be reflected on Moodle, so please refer to the Moodle page often for activities, due dates, readings, locations, etc.

GRADING

A total number of points will be formulated from studio projects, quizzes, written reflections, and class attendance. The percentage of points earned will be assigned letter grades as follows:

- 100-94 = A
- 93-90 = A-
- 89-88 = B+
- 87-84 = B
- 83-80 = B-
- 79-78 = C+
- 77-74 = C
- 73-70 = C-
- 69-68 = D+
- 67-64 = D
REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS
Materials: Supplies for studio projects will be requested as needed.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE/CLASSROOM CONDUCT
+ 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](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php).

+ Students may not use headphones or ear buds during class time. This course is meant to build community between one another and to learn from conversations occurring around you as you work. If we are engaged in studio practices during class time, I encourage you to walk around the room to look at other students’ work in order to learn and progress.

+ When we do engage in studio practice, I recommend that students wear clothing to class that they feel comfortable staining. (Feel free to wear an apron to class).

+ Cell phones/smart phones or any hand-held device should be put away and silenced while class is in session. They may occasionally be used for educational purposes only, such as photographing work, looking up information, or adding a due date to your calendar, etc. Texting and calling may take place before and after scheduled class times.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive on time and be in class for its entire duration. All absences regardless of cause (sleeping in/travel/medical emergency/family emergency), follow the guidelines below:

+ Two absences/late arrivals/leaving early: No grade change
+ Three to four absences/late arrivals/leaving early: One full grade drop
+ Five to six absences/late arrivals/leaving early: Two full grades dropped
+ More than six absences/late arrivals/leaving early: Retake course

Lectures, discussions, demonstrations, and instructions missed will not be repeated; the absent student must obtain notes and information from another student.

Required meeting times beyond what is shown in the published Class Schedule for the term, per N.A.S.A.D. guidelines: 5 hours of studio “homework time” in addition to the scheduled class time for every 3-credit studio art course.

FINAL EXAM
Our final meeting is scheduled for the following date and time: TBA
Attendance is required. Student attendance follows the above policy.

DUE DATES
Any written work is to be typed and submitted in paper format (not e-mailed) unless otherwise noted.
All writing should be submitted in APA 6th edition format:  
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

**Late work is not accepted.** If you predict an absence, submit assignments early. This policy comes with a caveat: students may revise assignments post-deadlines to improve their grades. This must take place within one week of the deadline. Both dates need to be included on the assignment in question.

**WRITTEN AND STUDIO ASSIGNMENTS**
Approximately half of the work assigned in this class will be in written format. Well-written papers are required for this course. Check written work carefully before submission. If you are not a strong writer, please make use of The Writing Center at [http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/).

Approximately ¼ of the work in this class will be devoted to quizzes, while another ¼ of the class will be devoted to studio-based work in individual, small-group, and large-group formats.

**LEGIBILITY AND LABELING**
Label all written class assignments in accordance to the APA 6th edition format. Label any other assignments with your name, course number, assignment title, and date. Label any artwork in this fashion on the back. Any hand-written materials (reflections perhaps) should be presented in a legible and professional format.

**STUDENTS WITH ACCESS/SPECIAL NEEDS**
Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me within the first two weeks of the course. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult [http://life.umt.edu/dss/](http://life.umt.edu/dss/).

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY**
Refer to UM Catalogue: [//www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm](//www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm).

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**
The UM School of Art uses environmentally-sound methods. Spray fixatives may not be used inside the studio/classroom facilities. They may be used outside or in an approved spray booth. Acrylic media are water-based and acceptable. All are available at our bookstore. You will be individually responsible for clean up at the end of each of your classroom working periods, both during and between classes. No creatures or children under the age of 18 will be allowed in studio during class time or open studio times. No food or open beverage containers are allowed in the School of Art facilities when art-making is in progress. Students may take a snack break by stepping out of the studio/classroom in necessary and approved.

**BUILDING ACCESS**
The use of studio space requires enrollment in a specific studio course or a course that incorporates studio practices. Hours are from 7 AM – 11 PM daily.

**PEER RESOURCES**
If you happen to miss any lectures, discussions, demonstrations, and instructions due to an absence; you must obtain notes and information from another student. Record the contact information of two classmates below:

| Name – Peer 1: | ___________________________________________________________ |
| M phone:      | ___________________________________________________________ |
| H phone:      | ___________________________________________________________ |
| E-mail:       | ___________________________________________________________ |

| Name – Peer 2: | ___________________________________________________________ |
| M phone:      | ___________________________________________________________ |
| H phone:      | ___________________________________________________________ |
| E-mail:       | ___________________________________________________________ |
Syllabus

Tue. Aug. 26  Introductions.
Course description, objectives, etc.
Text and materials
Syllabus.
  - Read pgs. 26 – 43 in Gateways to Art

Thu. Aug. 28  What is Art?  Where is Art?  Who Makes Art?  Why Do We Study Art?
The Nazca Lines (Peru) to Shepard Fairey
UM Graduate student exhibition

Tue. Sep. 2   The Value of Art and The Censorship of Art
Degenerate Art Exhibition to Ai Weiwei
  - Read pgs. 454 – 469 in Gateways to Art

Thu. Sep. 4   Art and Community
Stonehenge to JR
  - Read pgs. 192 – 203, 274 – 291 (regarding PRINT-MAKING and ARCHITECTURE) in Gateways to Art

Tue. Sep. 9   Art and Community, continued
  - Read pgs. 45 – 75 in Gateways to Art

Thu. Sep. 11  Studio Practice Project #1
  - Read pgs. 470 – 483 in Gateways to Art

Tue. Sep. 16  Spirituality and Art
Hildesheim Doors to James Turrell
  - Read pgs. 240 – 247, 260 – 273 (about ALTERNATIVE MEDIA and SCULPTURE) in Gateways to Art
Thu. Sep. 18  **Spirituality and Art, continued**

Tue. Sep. 23  **Gallery Visit**
- *Read pgs. 484 – 495 in Gateways to Art*

Thu. Sep. 25  **Art and the Cycle of Life**
Tlazolteotl to Andres Serrano
- *Read pgs. 180-191, 212 – 227 in Gateways to Art* (regarding PAINTING and PHOTOGRAPHY)

Tue. Sep. 30 **Art and the Cycle of Life, continued**

Thu. Oct. 2  **Studio Practice Project #2**
- *Read pgs. 508 – 519 in Gateways to Art*

Tue. Oct. 7  **Art and Illusion**
Andrea Mantegna to Julian Beever
*Studio Practice Project #2, CONTINUED*

Thu. Oct. 9  **Art and Illusion, continued**
- *Read pgs. 530 – 541 in Gateways to Art*

Tue. Oct. 14  **Art and War**
Bayeux Tapestry to Wafaa Bilal

Thu. Oct. 16 **Art and War, continued**
MIDTERM EXAM

Tue. Oct. 21  **Gallery Visit**
- *Read pgs. 542 – 553 in Gateways to Art*

Thu. Oct. 23  **Art of Social Conscience**
J.M.W. Turner to Bill Ohrmann

Tue. Oct. 28  **Art of Social Conscience, continued**

Thu. Oct. 30  **Studio Practice Project #3**
- *Read pgs. 554 – 567 in Gateways to Art*

Tue. Nov. 4  **NO CLASS, ELECTION DAY**
Thu. Nov. 6  **The Body in Art**  
Woman from Willendorf to Tracey Emin and Vanessa Beecroft  
- *Read pgs. 166 - 179, 248 – 259 in Gateways to Art* (regarding DRAWING and CERAMICS/CRAFT)

Tue. Nov. 11  **NO CLASS, VETERANS DAY**

Thu. Nov. 13  **The Body in Art, continued**

Tue. Nov. 18  **Studio Practice Project #4**

Thu. Nov. 20  **Art and Gender**  
Artemisia Gentileschi to Catherine Opie  
- *Read pgs. 204 - 211 in Gateways to Art* (regarding VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN)

Tue. Nov. 25  **Art and Gender, continued**

Thu. Nov. 27  **NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Tue. Dec. 2  **Studio Practice Project #4**

Thu. Dec. 4  **Semester Review**

Dec. 8 – Dec. 12  **FINALS WEEK**  
**FINAL EXAM, TIME AND DATE TBA**