ART 303L.01: Contemporary Art and Art Criticism

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STUDENT-LEARNING GOALS:
The following represent the goals of the art history and criticism curriculum:

- Art History: to gain a comprehensive and global view of the development of history and culture; to understand that art is a manifestation of intellectual history; and to study the various methodologies used to gain that knowledge.
- Visual Literacy and Language: to develop knowledge of visual language and the terminology needed for the analysis and discussion of works of art.
- Technical Skills: to learn the range of materials and technical applications employed by artists over time.
- Critical Thinking: to gain knowledge of and competence in critically analyzing visual images, past and present, and to express their relevance to society through informed discourse, both verbal and written.

Course description: This course is an exploration of art, artists, critics, and theories from WWII to the present. The class will consider major art movements and ideas of the modern and post-modern eras, with an emphasis on contemporary art makers. It offers first-hand experiences with contemporary art, direct engagement with artists at local venues, and the latest art criticism in newspapers, journals, magazines, and other media. This 3-credit course satisfies the H and W General Education requirements. Art 203 is a pre-requisite for this class.

Course format: The course is experiential in nature and relies heavily on direct engagement with works of art in discussion. The course will always meet in our regular classroom, FA 302, but we may meet in the Gallery of Visual Arts (GVA), the University Center Gallery (UC) and/or other venues. The syllabus is only available electronically on Blackboard. It is subject to change, so please check Blackboard regularly for announcements and assignments.

Course requirements:
Since much of the course is experiential, class sessions will be impossible to reproduce. Therefore, you are expected to attend class and participate in all discussions; attendance will be taken each time we meet. All assigned course work must be completed in order to earn credit for the class. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF THE INSTRUCTOR.** Students are expected to keep copies of all assigned work.

Readings:
Required text: Linda Weintraub, *In the Making, Creative Options for Contemporary Art*, 2003. A copy of the textbook will be available on two-hour reserve at the Mansfield Library.


Participation: Good class participation depends on your ability to prepare in advance of the discussions. Give yourself plenty of time to read the assigned text. Read intelligently and bring your questions to class. 20% of your grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussion.

Attendance Policy: at least 85% attendance and occasional participation earns a "C" and 95-100% participation with frequent and thoughtful contribution to class discussion an "A". Attendance will always be taken at the start of class. **If you are not present at roll call, you will be marked absent regardless of what time you show up.** Participation may count for more of the final grade if it has been exceptionally good or less if exceedingly poor. Improvement over the course of the quarter will be registered in the final grade.
Summary of grades:
Participation: 20 % 100 pts.
Papers: 40 % 200 pts.
(2 short papers at 100 points apiece)
Term paper: 40 % 200 pts.
(1 longer research paper and oral presentation)
Total 100 % 400 pts.

Access/Special Needs/Disabilities:
Students with access concerns, special needs, learning disabilities, medical conditions, and/or physical impairments that may impede the successful completion of this course, please contact the office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) at x. 2243 (Lommasson Center 154) and speak with me as soon as possible.

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: www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

Syllabus
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Week 1
Wednesday, August 29, 2007
Orientation
What is art?

Week 2:
Wednesday, September 5, 2007
Modernism
Readings: Weintraub, Scoping the Audience, 14-119.

Paper #1 will be assigned in class.

Week 3:
Wednesday, September 12, 2007
Postmodernism
Readings: Weintraub, Sourcing Inspiration, 120-191.

Paper #1 due at the start of class. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Week 4:
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
Weintraub, Creating an Artistic Self, 192-231.

Week 5:
Wednesday, September 26, 2007
Weintraub, Expressing an Artistic Attitude, 232-279.

Paper #1 revisions due at the start of class. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Paper #2 will be assigned in class.

Week 6:
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Weintraub, Choosing a Mission, 280-351.

Paper #2 due at the start of class. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Term Paper will be assigned in class.

Week 7:
Wednesday, October 10, 2007
Week 8:  
Wednesday, October 17, 2007  
**Paper #2 revisions due at the start of class. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Week 9:  
Wednesday, October 24, 2007  

Week 10  
Wednesday, October 31, 2007  
**Term papers are due at the start of class. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Week 11:  
Wednesday, November 7, 2007  
**Presentations begin.**

Week 12  
Wednesday, November 14, 2007  
**Term paper revisions are due at the start of class. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Presentations continue.**

Week 13  
Wednesday, November 21, 2007  
**NO CLASS, Thanksgiving**

Week 14  
Wednesday, November 28, 2007  
**Presentations continue.**

Week 15  
Wednesday, December 5, 2007  
**Presentations continue.**

**Finals Week,**  
Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 5:30-7:30 PM  
**If we are not done with presentations by Week 15, the class shall meet during finals week.**