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ARTH 350.01: Contemporary Art and Art Criticism

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School of Art
ARTH 350 (Contemporary Art and Art Criticism, 3 credits)
TTH 2:10-3:30, Fall Semester 2013, Fine Arts 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: Survey of artists, art works, critics and theories from 1970's to the present. Introduction to major art movements and ideas of the Post-Modern era. Special emphasis given to firsthand experiences with art at local venues and direct engagement with contemporary art criticism published in newspapers, journals, magazines, and other media.


Recommended Resources: Additional books, catalogues, and articles will be available through Course Reserves at Mansfield Library or at the Art Resource Center in the Fine Arts Building. Articles and websites will be available through Moodle Learning Management System.

Learning Objectives:
- Develop improved observation and analysis of contemporary art
- Comprehend various interpretive perspectives and the complexities of categorization
- 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

Requirements for Course: You are expected to attend class and participate in discussion. All assigned course work must be completed 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, other course materials, announcements, and grades. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Three Comparison Essays, with required revisions, 100 points each/300 points total
Three Examinations: 100 points each/300 points total

Grading: 600-540 = A; 539-480 = B; 479-420 = C; 419-360 = D; 359 or less = F

Students with disabilities or special needs should see 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 www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321.

Week 1, 27 and 29 August
Introduction and What came before the postmodern?
Taylor, Alternatives to Modernism, Chapter 1

Week 2, 3 and 5 September
Post-Minimalism

Week 3, 10 and 12 September
Art c. 1968: Joseph Beuys and Arte Povera

Week 4 17 and 19 September
First-Generation Feminist Art/Pattern and Decoration
Taylor, Victory and Decline, the 1970s, Chapter 2
Week 5, 24 and 26 September
Marina Abramović, *The Artist Is Present*
Examination 1

Week 6, 1 and 3 October
Architectural Sculpture and New Image Painting

Week 7, 8 and 10 October
Art World of the 1970s: American Neoexpressionism, Italian Transavantguardia and German Neoexpressionism

Week 8, 15 and 17 October
Media Art and PoMo Art Theory, Consumer Society and Deconstruction Art

Week 9, 22 and 24 October
Art World of the 1980s: East Village Art, Commodity Art and NeoGeo
Taylor, *Images and Things: the 1980s*, Chapter 4

Week 10, 29 and 31 October
Gerhard Richter, *Painting*
Examination 2

Week 11, 5 and 7 November
Art World of the 1990s

Week 12, 12 and 14 November
The ‘Other’

Week 13, 19 and 21 November
Art of the 21st century

Week 14, 26 November
Venice Biennale 2011 and 2013

Thanksgiving Break

Week 15, 3 and 5 December
Artists of Africa and Asia
Examination 3