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ARTH 435Y.01 Art of the United States

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Syl-S14-435 H-01-HRC

ARTH 435H.01 Art of the United States

Pre-requisites: one semester (preferably the second half) of the year-long introductory art history survey (ARTH 200 & 201; formerly Art 150 & 151) or consent of the instructor; this is a 3-credit, upper-division course that satisfies the H General Education requirements.

Spring 2014

Professor Information: Professor H. Rafael Chacón, Ph.D., Office hours: M-TR 11-12, Fine Arts 305B, (ext. 2735, hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu). Messages can also be left in my mailbox in the School of Art office (FA305).

Class Meetings: Fine Arts 302, TTR, 9:40-11 AM.

COMPETENCIES OR STUDENT-LEARNING GOALS IN ART HISTORY AND CRITICISM:

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 a broad survey of American art from the Civil War to the present. By studying the sweep of American history, particularly in the last century, we shall address fundamental questions about the nature of American art and culture.

Course objectives and format:

This course takes place in a traditional slide lecture format; I encourage open, frank, and fair discussion in the classroom. The syllabus is arranged thematically and on a weekly basis. As discussions and debates often develop lives of their own, unfinished work will sometimes spill over into the next session. The success of the course rests on the quality of these discussions.

Course requirements and grading policies:

Good performance in this class rests on your participation, analysis of the primary and secondary texts that illuminate American art, and retention of images discussed in class and your readings. You are expected to engage the ideas of the course, stay abreast of the readings, and share your thoughts and ideas with the class. You are expected to attend all class sessions and 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.** Please submit all written work in person and keep copies of all assigned work.

Text:

The textbook for this course is: David Bjelajac, *American Art: A Cultural History*. Additional readings, mostly articles and portions of books, will be posted on Moodle. I shall always let you know where we are on the syllabus, but stay abreast of the readings because you will be called upon in class and texts will show up in quizzes. Good class participation depends on your ability to prepare well in advance of the discussion.

Summary of grades:

| | | |
|----------------|------|----------|
| Participation: | 20 % | 200 pts. |
|----------------|------|----------|

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| (includes participation in in-class critical writing assignments) | | |
| Quizzes: | 30 % | 300 pts. |
| Research Paper & Project: | 50 % | 500 pts. |
| Total | 100 % | 1000 pts. |

PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE POLICY:

Participation is crucial for successful completion of this course. Attendance will always be taken at the start of class; if you are absent for the roll call, you will be counted as absent. 20% of your grade (100 points) is determined by attendance and participation in class discussions. At least 85% attendance and occasional participation earns a "C" and 95-100% participation an "A". Participation counts for more of the final grade if it has been exceptionally good or less if exceedingly poor.

Excused Absences:

What warrants an excused absence? A death in the family, a court or legal issue that cannot be scheduled at any other time (for example: jury duty, parole meeting, court date, incarceration, etc.) or a severe health issue (for example: being contagious with flu or pink eye, an incident that requires a visit to the emergency room or hospitalization, or a medical condition requiring an immediate appointment that cannot be scheduled at any other day/time). Upon returning to class, please bring documentation regarding the exact date of the absence (except in the case of family death). Absences due to a severe health issue can be excused only if, upon returning, you bring a signed note from the attending health care provider (physician or RN, not a member of the secretarial staff) stating that you were ill the day of the absence and sought medical attention. The note must include: the exact date of class missed and the actual signature of the attending physician or RN and his/her contact information.

Credit/No Credit Option:

Matriculation in this class is a contract to do your best and accept the traditional grade assigned. I do not convert a traditional grade to credit/no credit and release you from your contract unless I have evidence of an emergency, health crisis, or extreme personal situation in which you cannot possibly finish the course assignments in the normal fashion. The possibility of failing the class or earning a low grade and lowering your overall GPA does not rise to that standard.

Drop/Add Forms:

As per the explanation in the previous paragraph, I do not sign drop/add forms after week 10 of the term.

RESEARCH PAPER & PROJECT:

For your term project and paper, you shall work in teams on a hands-on/research project. You will write individual research papers. **RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE ON TUESDAY, April 15, 2008, AT THE START OF CLASS—NO LATE PAPERS OR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT.** Papers will be returned with comments and may be revised and resubmitted for the final grade before the end of the term. You will share the results of your research with the class in individual presentations at the end of the term.

ACCESS, SPECIAL NEEDS AND 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.

Accommodations:

Accommodations for disabilities can be made only after I have received a letter from DSS. Request for accommodations must be made to me in writing no later than 3 weeks before the due date of the assignment.

Electronic Devices:

THE USE OF TAPE RECORDERS, CELLPHONES, CAMERAS, IPODS, LAPTOPS AND/OR RECORDING DEVICES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE CLASSROOM. ADDRESS ALL

REQUESTS IN WRITING TO ME. Please turn off all cell phones, blackberries, ipads or tablets, and any other mobile device or set them on vibrate prior to the start of class. Students failing to do so will be asked to leave class and may not be allowed to return to class that day at the instructor's discretion. However, if you are in the midst of an emergency, please communicate with me about your situation immediately.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to a 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

This syllabus is only available electronically on Moodle. It is subject to change, so please check Moodle regularly for announcements and assignments.

Week 1

Defining the State: Symbols of the Republic

Readings: Bjelajac, pp. 115-161.

Optional: pp. 13-113.

Week 2

Romanticism and the Landscape

Bjelajac, 192-215.

Week 3

The Real American: Genre Painting

Bjelajac, 163-177, 185-191, 215-225, 241-48.

Week 4

The City Beautiful: Urbanism and Architecture

Bjelajac, 177-184, 227-241, 285-288.

Week 5

Tuesday, February 25, 2014, NO CLASS

Thursday, February 27, 2014, QUIZ #1

Week 6

Realism vs. Impressionism

Bjelajac, 248-283, 288-293.

Week 7

The Armory Show and Modernism

Bjelajac, 293-314.

Week 8

The Depression and State Patronage

Bjelajac, 314-327.

Week 9

Architecture between the World Wars

Bjelajac, 329-337.

Week 10

No Classes--Spring Break

Week 11

Tuesday, April 8, 2014, NO CLASS

Thursday, April 10, 2014, QUIZ #2

Week 12

Post-War Modernism: The New York School

Bjelajac, 337-379.

Week 13

Feminist Art and Post-Modernism

Bjelajac, 380-391.

THURSDAY, April 17, 2014, PAPERS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS—NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Week 14

THURSDAY, April 1, 2014, REVISED PAPERS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS—NO LATE PAPERS OR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Presentations begin

Week 15

Tuesday, May 6, Presentations continue

Thursday, May 8, 2008, QUIZ #3

Finals Week:

Presentations will continue if we do not finish during the prior 2 weeks.