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Spring 1-2016

### ARTH 250L.01: Introduction to Art Criticism

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**School of Art**  
**Arth 250L, Introduction to Art Criticism, 3 credits**  
**Literary and Artistic Studies and Lower-Division Writing Course**  
**TTH 11:10-12:30, Spring Semester 2016, Fine Arts 302**

Professor Valerie Hedquist, 305A Fine Arts Building  
E-mail: [valerie.hedquist@umontana.edu](mailto:valerie.hedquist@umontana.edu)  
Office hours: Wednesday 11-12:00 a.m. or by appointment

**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 and apply aesthetic evaluative criteria 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 writing and revising two argumentative or persuasive essays and three 5-page papers

**Required text:** Terry Barrett, *Criticizing Art, Understanding the Contemporary*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, McGraw-Hill, 2012.

**Pre-requisites for Course:** ARTH 200H and ARTH 201H with C- or better grade. Students majoring in Art are required to have earned a grade of C.

**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.umn.edu> for course syllabus, lectures, assignments, other course materials, announcements, and grades.

**Late Work:** Late work should not exist; turn in work on the due date indicated at Moodle and/or on the assignment document. Sometimes, however, life gets in the way and then you need a LATE PASS. Every student gets one (1) LATE PASS. The LATE PASS is a piece of paper on which you have artistically requested a one-week extension for your work. You may submit the LATE PASS to me in person or by email anytime prior to the assignment due date. You need not supply a reason; every student gets one LATE PASS, no questions asked.

I would recommend that you save your LATE PASS for an assignment with a lot of points. It doesn't make sense to use your LATE PASS for the 10-point Weekly Writing Assignments. In addition, the LATE PASS is not valid for Sidecar activities and assignments.

After you have used your LATE PASS, any late work will be penalized five (5) points/day. For example, if you use your LATE PASS to provide more time for the Library Assignment, and then submit a Weekly Writing Assignment one day late, you will have only five (5) possible points to earn.

Finally, if after using your LATE PASS, you become ill or a victim of an emergency, you should contact me as soon as possible to discuss your options.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Please arrive on time to class. Prepare to sit down for the duration of class. Silence your phone and/or other digital devices and pay attention to what is happening in the classroom. If you are using a laptop computer, focus on classroom activities, especially if other students can see your screen. Remember to engage with others in a respectful manner. Check out the College Classroom Etiquette

document at Moodle and this link: <http://dianegottzman.com/2012/01/college-classroom-etiquette-university-etiquette-for-2012/>

**Hints for How to Study:** For each hour of class time, you will benefit from at least two (2) hours of outside study time when you will review handouts and class-time notes, check Moodle updates and websites, and read your textbook. Check out the following helpful advice in order to prepare for success.

<http://www.howtostudy.com>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/09/08/study-tips-for-college-\\_n\\_709096.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/09/08/study-tips-for-college-_n_709096.html)

### **Assignments and Points Distribution:**

**Attendance:** 5 points daily, 25 class meetings, (125 points total)

**Ten Weekly Writing:** 10 points weekly, (100 points total)

**Sidecar Submissions/Meetings - Walker/Wiley:** 25 points each; (100 points total)

**Three Papers; Visual Analysis, Interpretation, and Judgment:** 100 points each; (300 points total)

**Sidecar Submissions/Meetings Interpretation Paper:** 25 points each; (50 points total)

**Library assignment:** 100 points total

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

775-713 A; 712-697.5 A-  
697-682 B+; 681-635.5 B; 635-620 B-  
619-604.5 C+; 604-558 C; 557-542.5 C-  
542-527 D+; 526-480.5 D; 480-465 D-  
464 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://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion. (See Student Conduct Code that follows in this section of the catalog.)

Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one's own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism. (<http://www.umt.edu/catalog/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php>)

### **Local Art Scene, A Short List:**

Events in the School of Art are listed at <http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com>  
Check it out!

University Center Gallery, <http://www.umt.edu/uc/Arts-Entertainment/uc-gallery/>, (M-F 10-4:00)

MMAC, Paxson/Meloy, <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/exeventsschedule/currentexhibitions.aspx>,  
(TWSat 12-3:00; THF12-6:00)

GVA, Gallery of Visual Art, <http://www.umt.edu/art/galleries/gva>, (T-F 11-5:00)

MAM, <http://www.missoulaartmuseum.org>, (Tuesday - Saturday 10-5)

Review gallery/museum etiquette guide: <http://www.kam.illinois.edu/education/videos/KrannertVideo.mp4>

## **Lecture and Discussion Topics and Assignments**

### **Week One, 26 and 28 January**

#### **What is Art? What can Art Do?**

Moodle Introduction

Definitions and changing ideas of art

Discuss cases from *Puzzles about Art, An Aesthetics Casebook*

Receive art criticism selections regarding Theaster Gates for discussion

Introduction to Art Resource Center (Hours: To be determined) and on-campus art venues.

### **Week Two, 2 and 4 February**

#### **What is Art?**

Visit from Writing Center Associate Director, Jacob Hansen, Thursday, 4 February 11:10

Information about writing and reading for college success

Thursday 4 February, Gallery of Visual Arts, Opening Reception, 5-7 pm

What Lay Before – What Lay After, Sculpture and Paintings by Francis Paul Pearson

### **Week Three, 9 and 11 February**

#### **Analyzing art, what do I see?**

Read: Barrett, Chapters 3 and 6

Formal elements and principles of design

### **Paper #1, Visual Analysis, Francis Paul Pearson**

**Outline due date, Thesis and Topic Sentences: 16 February**

**First due date: 18 February**

**Revision due: 1 March**

### **Week Four, 16 and 18 February**

#### **What is Art Criticism?**

Past and Present Critics, Writing about Art

Read: Barrett, Preface, Chapter 1

Receive art criticism selections regarding Kara Walker and Kehinde Wiley for discussion

### **Week Five, 23 and 25 February**

#### **The Task of the Critic: Description, Interpretation, and Evaluation**

What do critics do?

### **Sidecar Walker/Wiley Assignment**

**First due date at Moodle for Student Group Exchange: Tuesday 23 February**

**Sidecar Meeting: Thursday 25 February**

**Due date to Hedquist: 1 March**

**Second due date at Moodle for Student Group Exchange: Tuesday 8 March**

**Sidecar Meeting: Thursday 10 March**

**Final due date to Hedquist: 15 March**

### **Week Six, 1 and 3 March**

#### **Finding Art Criticism**

Library Resources and Assignment, Prix Pictet

Meet with Tammy Ravas, Librarian on March 1 in the Student Computer Lab, Mansfield Library

**Library Assignment due date: 22 March****Weeks Seven and Eight 8, 10, 15, 17 March****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

Thursday, 10 March, Gallery of Visual Arts, Opening Reception, 5-7 pm

MFA Thesis Exhibitions, Tressa Jones, Kate Lund, and Aja Mujinga Sherrard

**Paper #2, Interpretation Paper – What does it Mean? MFA Thesis Exhibition**

**First due date at Moodle for Student Group Exchange: Tuesday 15 March**

**Sidecar Meeting: Thursday 17 March**

**Due date to Hedquist: 22 March**

**Second due date at Moodle for Student Group Exchange: Tuesday 29 March**

**Sidecar Meeting: Thursday 31 March**

**Final due date to Hedquist: 12 April**

**Weeks Nine and Ten 22, 24, 29, and 31 March****Evaluating art, what is good art?**

Criteria for evaluating art, past and present

Read: Barrett, Chapter 5

**Paper #3, Evaluation Paper – Is it successful? BFA Exhibition**

**Outline due date: Thesis and Topic Sentences, 28 April**

**First due date: 3 May**

**Revision due: 10 May**

Spring Break, 4-8 April 2016

**Week Eleven, 12 and 14 April**

**BFA Meetings**

**Week Twelve, 19 and 21 April**

**Dave Tarullo and Beth Huhtala, MFA Exhibition**

**Week Thirteen 26 and 28 April**

**Museums/Galleries and Power**

**Week Fourteen, 3 and 5 May****Art Criticism of Contemporary Art Exhibitions**

Consideration of leading arbiters of contemporary art

Who's hot and who's not?

Ten contemporary artists to share

Group Exchange

Missoula Art Museum: Holly Andres, Photographer

Distinguished Artist Lecture: May 3, 7 PM

First Friday: May 6, 5-8 PM

Artist Reception and Gallery Talk: May 6, 7 PM