Fall 9-1-2017

ARTH 250L.01: Introduction to Art Criticism

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Office hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:00 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


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.umt.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://dianegottsman.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
Assignments and Points Distribution:

**Attendance**: 5 points daily, 20 class meetings, (100 points total)

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

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

**Library assignment**: 100 points total

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

- 600-540 A; 539-480 B; 479-420 C; 419-360 D; 359 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](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](http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com). Check it out!
- University Center Gallery, [http://www.umt.edu/uc/uc-gallery/](http://www.umt.edu/uc/uc-gallery/), (M-F 10-4:00)
- MMAC, Paxson/Meloy, [http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/exeventsschedule/](http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/exeventsschedule/), (TWSat 12-3:00; THF12-6:00)
- GVA, Gallery of Visual Art, [http://www.umt.edu/art/galleries/](http://www.umt.edu/art/galleries/), (T-F 11-5:00)
- MAM, [http://www.missoulaartmuseum.org](http://www.missoulaartmuseum.org), (Tuesday - Saturday 10-5)
- Review gallery/museum etiquette guide: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drrBd1bClW0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drrBd1bClW0)

**Lecture and Discussion Topics and Assignments**

**Week One, 6 September**

- **What is Art? What can Art Do?**
  - Moodle Introduction
  - Definitions and changing ideas of art
  - Discuss cases from *Puzzles about Art, An Aesthetics Casebook*
  - Review art criticism selections regarding Theaster Gates for discussion
  - Introduction to Art Resource Center (Hours: To be determined) and on-campus art venues

**Week Two, 11 and 13 September**

- **What is Art?**
  - *Puzzles about Art* and Theaster Gates Discussion
- **12 September** Elizabeth Dove, Missoula Art Museum, 7 p.m.
- **13 September** Patrick Dougherty, UC Theatre, 6-8 p.m

**Week Three, 18 and 20 September**

- **Analyzing art, what do I see?**
  - Read: Barrett, Chapters 3 and 6
  - Formal elements and principles of design
  - UC Art Gallery, Anne Yoncha
  - GVA, Chris Bauder
21 September Rafael Chacón, MMAC, 6 p.m.

**Paper #1, Visual Analysis.**
- **First due date:** 25 September
- **Revision due:** 2 October

**Week Four, 25 and 27 September**
- **What is Art Criticism?**
  - Past and Present Critics, Writing about Art
  - Read: Barrett, Preface, Chapter 1
  - Review art criticism selections regarding Mark Bradford for discussion

**Week Five, 2 and 4 October**
- **The Task of the Critic: Description, Interpretation, and Evaluation**
- What do critics do?
- Mark Bradford Discussion
- **5 October** Chris Bauder, SS 356, 5-6 p.m. followed by reception in GVA

**Week Six, 9 and 11 October**
- No classroom meetings
- Meet with Casey Schachner UC Art Gallery on 9 or 11 October
- **5 October** Casey Schachner UC Art Gallery, 4-6 p.m.

**Week Seven, 16 and 18 October**
- **Finding Art Criticism**
  - Library Resources and Assignment, Venice Biennale
  - Meet with Librarian, Student Computer Lab, Mansfield Library
  - **Library Assignment due date:** 30 October
  - **17 October** Patrick Zentz, Missoula Art Museum, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

**Weeks Eight, Nine, and Ten 23, 25, and 30 October and 1, 6, and 8 November**
- **Interpreting art, what does it mean?**
- No classroom meetings/on-line lecture unit
- Changing approaches to meaning, past and present, traditional, modern, and postmodern
- Read: Barrett, Chapters 2 and 4
- Contemporary artists and what the art means
- **24 October** John Hitchcock, Missoula Art Museum, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- **2 November** April Werel and Nick Gilbert UC Art Gallery, 4-6 p.m.
- **9 November** Rafael Chacón, Lecture, Social Science 356, 5-6 p.m.

**Paper #2, Interpretation Paper – What does it Mean?**
- **First due date:** 8 November
- **Revision due:** 15 November

**Weeks Eleven and Twelve 13, 15, and 20 November**
- **Evaluating art, what is successful art?**
- Criteria for evaluating art, past and present
- Read: Barrett, Chapter 5

**Thanksgiving Break, 22-26 November**

**Paper #3, Evaluation Paper – Is it successful? Faculty Exhibition, GVA**
- **First due date:** 4 December
- **Revision due:** 11 December

**Week Thirteen 27 and 29 November**
- **Museums/Galleries and Power**
  - Meet with Jesse Blumenthal UC Art Gallery on 27 or 29 November October
  - **30 November** Jesse Blumenthal UC Art Gallery 4-6:00 p.m.
Weeks Fourteen and Fifteen, 4, 6, and 11 December
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