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ARTH 350.01: Contemporary Art and Art Criticism

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Professor Valerie Hedquist, 305A Fine Arts Building  
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Office hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:00 a.m. and by appointment

Course description: Survey of artists, art works, critics and theories from 1980s 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 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

Classroom Etiquette: Please arrive on time to class. Prepare to sit down for the duration of class. Silence your phone 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/

Class Format: Lecture and discussion 4:00-5:30. Break 5:30-5:50. Quiz from 5:50-6:50. Some classes sessions will also meet at local art venues.

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:

Eight Quizzes (Identity, The Body, Time, Memory, Place, Language, Science, Spirituality): 50 points each/400 points total  
Discussion Leadership: responsible to co-lead a conversation on one theme, 50 points  
Three Art Assignments (http://www.theartassignment.com/about/): 100 points each/300 points total  
School of Art Faculty Exhibition Paper: 100 points  
Attendance: 10 points/meeting, including class sessions and art venues/speakers/150 points total

Grading: 1000-900 = A; 899-800 = B; 799-700 = C; 699-600 = D; 599 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](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

**Week 1, 5 September**
- Introduction, Themes of Contemporary Art: What, Why, and How
- A Brief Orientation
- Art TALK, Trey Hill and Tyler Brumfield
- Shakespeare & Co Bookstore (103 S 3rd Ave W), Tuesday, September 5, 6 p.m.

**Week 2, 12 September**
- The Art World Expands, Chapter One
- Profiles: Katharina Grosse and Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch
- Elizabeth Dove, Missoula Art Museum, Tuesday, September 12, 7 p.m.

**13 September**
- Patrick Dougherty, UC Theatre, 6-8 p.m.

**Week 3, 19 September**
- Identity, Chapter Two
- Profiles: Shirin Neshat and Nancy Burson
- Co-leaders and quiz

**21 September**
- Rafael Chacón, MMAC, 6 p.m.

**Week 4 26 September**
- Body, Chapter Three
- Profiles: Renée Cox and Zhang Huan
- Co-leaders and quiz
- Anne Yoncha, UC Art Gallery Talk, 5-6:00 p.m.

**Week 5, 3 October**
- Time, Chapter Four
- Profiles: Hiroshi Sugimoto and Cornelia Parker
- Co-leaders and quiz
- Art TALK, TBA
- Shakespeare & Co Bookstore (103 S 3rd Ave W), Tuesday, 3 October, 6 p.m.

**5 October**
- Chris Bauder, SS 356, 5-6 p.m. followed by reception in GVA

**Week 6, 10 October**
- No classroom meeting
- Work on Art Assignment #1

**Week 7, 17 October**
- Memory, Chapter Five
- Profiles: Christian Boltanski and Brian Tolle
- Co-leaders and quiz
- Patrick Zentz, Missoula Art Museum, Tuesday 17 October, 7 p.m.
Week 8, 24 October  
No classroom meeting  
Work on Art Assignment #2  
John Hitchcock, Missoula Art Museum, Tuesday 24 October, 7 p.m.  

Week 9, 31 October  
No classroom meeting  
Work on Art Assignment #3  

Week 10, 7 November  
No classroom meeting  
Art TALK, TBA  
Shakespeare & Co Bookstore (103 S 3rd Ave W), Tuesday, 7 November, 6 p.m.  

Week 11, 14 November  
Place, Chapter Six  
Profiles: Turbine Hall at Tate Modern and Andrea Zittel  
Co-leaders and quiz  

Week 12, 21 November  
Language, Chapter Seven  
Profiles: Nina Katchadourian and Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller  
Co-leaders and quiz  

Week 13, 28 November  
Science, Chapter Eight  
Profiles: Patricia Piccinini and Eduardo Kac  
Co-leaders and quiz  

Week 14, 5 December  
School of Art Faculty Exhibition, GVA  
Art TALK, TBA  
Shakespeare & Co Bookstore (103 S 3rd Ave W), Tuesday, 3 October, 6 p.m.  

Week 15, 12 December  
Spirituality, Chapter Nine  
Profiles: Bill Viola and José Bedia  
Co-leaders and quiz