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Fall 9-1-2017

### ARTH 491.01: ST - Art and War

H. Rafael Chacon

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## Seminar: Art & War

Syl-F17-A491-01-HRC

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.**

TERM: Fall 2017

### COURSE INFORMATION:

School of Art

ARTH 491, Section 01, **Seminar: Art & War**, 3 credits, prerequisites: ARTH 200 or 201 or consent of instructor

### MEETINGS:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 AM - 1:50 PM, Fine Arts 302

### PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

H. Rafael Chacón, Ph.D.

Office Hours: M&W, 11 A.M. - 12 noon, (Fine Arts 305B, hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu).

Messages may also be left in my School of Art office mailbox (FA 205).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION:** The aim of this upper-level seminar is to investigate the rich topic of war in the history of art. Opening lectures will look at case studies from antiquity to the present, which demonstrate the pervasive nature of war in the human experience. The second half will focus on modern wars starting in the 19th century and their expression in the visual arts. The seminar is intimately tied to the exhibition, "Over There! Montanans in the Great War," opening on September 21 at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture. The show, curated by Professor Chacón, commemorates the centennial of the US entry into World War I and reintroduces this pivotal historical event through art and artifacts related to the lives of four Montanans.

### COMPETENCIES OR STUDENT-LEARNING GOALS IN ART HISTORY:

The following represent the course objectives 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 express their relevance to society through informed discourse, both verbal and written.

**FORMAT:** This course is in a slide lecture format, but I also encourage open, frank, and fair discussion in the classroom. The syllabus below is arranged thematically and on a weekly basis. Discussions and debates often develop lives of their own and sometimes unfinished work spills over into the next session. We shall utilize the course management Moodle for the syllabus and other course materials. **THE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.**

### REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:

Good performance in art history in general and in this class in particular rests on your ability to grasp hundreds of images representing the creative output of people in society during specific

periods of time and the ideas that illuminate their creative process. You will also be expected to stay abreast of the readings and to participate fully in the class.

**READINGS:** Required readings can be found in: Laura Brandon, *art & war*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2007, ISBN 978 1 84511 237 0. Additional readings, mostly articles and portions of books, on occasion will be posted on Moodle. I shall always let you know where we are on the syllabus and which readings are relevant, but stay abreast because you will be called upon in class and the texts will inevitably show up in exams. Good class participation depends on your ability to prepare well in advance of the discussion. Give yourself plenty of time to read the assigned text. Read it intelligently and bring your questions to class.

**GRADES SUMMARY:**

Participation	20 %	100 points
Short Paper & Gallery Talk	40 %	200 pts.
Term Paper & Presentation	40 %	200 pts.
TOTAL	100%	500 pts.

**PARTICIPATION and ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Participation is crucial for successful completion of this course. 20% of your grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussions as well as outside public lectures and events related to the "Over There!" exhibition. (See the list of required events at the bottom of this syllabus.) Please note that in order to accommodate the required outside events, I have made every effort to cancel an equal number of regular class sessions (7 required + 3 optional outside events and 9 cancelled sessions). Each optional event attended will earn extra credit points. 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. Absences due to health can be excused only if the student brings a signed note from his or her health care provider stating that the student was ill the day of the absence and sought medical attention.

**Excused Absences:**

What warrants an excused absence? A death in the family, a court or legal issue (for example: jury duty, parole meeting, court date, incarceration), an appointment for public benefits or entitlements that cannot be scheduled at any other time, or a severe health issue.

What is a severe health issue? Being contagious (with flu or pink eye, for example), an incident that requires a visit to the emergency room or hospitalization, or having a medical condition requiring an immediate appointment that cannot be scheduled at any other day/time. Upon returning to class, the student must show 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, the student brings a signed note from his or her attending health care provider (physician or RN, not a member of the secretarial staff) stating that the student was 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:**

When you matriculate in this class and register for a traditional grade, you make a contract to do your best and accept the grade assigned. I do not convert a traditional grade to credit/no credit and release a student from her contract unless I have evidence of an emergency, health crisis, or extreme personal situation in which the student 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 previous paragraph, I do not sign drop/add forms after week 10 of the term.

**SHORT PAPER & GALLERY TALK:** Early on in the semester, you will research and write a Short Paper on an aspect of the Great War of your own choosing. This is in preparation for a

public Gallery Talk which you will deliver at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture in conjunction with the "Over There!" exhibition. The paper represents 20% of your course grade and the Gallery Talk another 20%. Information about my paper grading criteria will be posted on Moodle and the paper will be resubmitted with revisions for the final grade. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS WITH DR. CHACON.** You will be coached extensively on delivering the public Gallery Talk at the MMAC

**TERM PAPER & PRESENTATION:** You will research and write a Term Paper on the art associated with a modern war of your own choosing; this paper is worth 20% of your grade. Then you will do a class Presentation on what you learned at the end of the semester for another 20% of your grade. As with the Short Paper, the Term Paper will be resubmitted with revisions for the final grade. Presentations will take place during Weeks 14 & 15 at the end of the semester.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**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 less than 3 weeks before the due date of the examination or assignment.

**Electronic Devices:**

Electronic recording devices may be used in the classroom provided you make all requests in writing to the instructor. You must tell me what device you wish to use and why. Please turn off all cell phones, Blackberries, I-pads or tablets, and any other mobile device that may cause a distraction 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 at the instructor's discretion. If you are in the midst of an emergency, please communicate with me about your situation, immediately. Research consistently shows that students who use electronic devices for note-taking rather than traditional handwriting learn less and perform more poorly in college-level courses. See: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/> <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/memory-medic/201303/why-writing-hand-could-make-you-smarter> <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>

**Academic Conduct:**

All students are expected to practice academic honesty and comport themselves in a civil fashion while on campus. 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](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321)

**Syllabus**

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.**

**Introduction**

TR, Aug. 31

**1. The Bloody Renaissance**

Reading: Brandon, pages 1-25.

T, Sept. 5

## **Religious Paradigms**

TR, Sept. 7

## **Secular Paradigms**

Short Paper & Gallery Talk assigned

### **2. Of Kings and Horses**

Brandon, 26-35.

T, Sept. 12

#### **Equestrian Images from Renaissance Italy**

TR, Sept. 14

#### **Louis XIV's Versailles**

### **3. The Charged Image**

T, Sept. 19

#### **The Political Cartoon in 19th Century France**

Readings: Chacón, "Power and Polemics: Political Satire and the French July Monarchy," *Bulletin of the David and Alfred Smart Museum*, The University of Chicago, (1992), 2-19.

Judith Wechsler, *A Human Comedy: Physiognomy and Caricature in 19th Century Paris*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982, 66-11.

TR, September 21

Docent Training at MMAC

**REQUIRED** (you may skip the reception and Catalogue-signing, but the lecture below is required)

5-6 PM Opening Reception and Catalog-signing, PARTV Center Lobby

6 PM Lecture, "Over There! Montanans in the Great War," lecture by Professor Chacón, Montana Theatre, PARTV Center

### **4. 20th Century Conflicts and Propaganda: the World Wars**

Brandon, 39-89.

M, Sept. 25

**REQUIRED** (one of the two events below)

3 PM –Philosophy Forum: "Missing, Broken, and Forgotten: The Never Ending Challenges of Filmmaking," presented by Jo Throckmorton, Filmmaker and Owner, Jo Throckmorton Filmworks, GBB 123

or

8 PM –President's Lecture Series: "America's Deadliest Battle: An Experiential Film of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive," by Throckmorton, Montana Theater, PARTV Center

T, Sept. 26

NO CLASS—finish Short Paper Assignment

TR, Sept. 28

**Short Paper assignment due at the start of class. No late work will be accepted without prior consent.**

Docent Training at MMAC

### **5. Paradigm of Peace**

Picasso: Timeline and Herschel B. Chipp, "The First Step Toward Guernica," *Arts Magazine* (October 1988), 62-67 and *Guernica*, University of California Press, 1988, 170-90.

T, Oct. 3

#### **Picasso's Guernica**

TR, Oct. 5

Short Paper revisions due at the start of class.

**OPTIONAL**

First of three films, two of which are REQUIRED; please note that these films are free for you

F, Oct. 6

7 PM - First Monday WWI Films presents "Grand Illusion," Roxy Theater, 718 Higgins Avenue.

### **6. Abu Ghraib and Beyond**

Brandon, 90-117; 131-132.

T, Oct. 10

### **Terrorism and Torture in Contemporary Art**

TR, Oct. 12

**Term Paper & Presentation assigned.**

### **7. Work Week I**

T, Oct. 17 & 19

NO CLASSES—work on Term Papers

### **8. Work Week II**

T, Oct. 24 & 26

NO CLASSES—work on Presentations

### **9. The Confederate Monuments**

Brandon, 118-130.

T, Oct. 31

**Term Papers due at the start of class. No late work will be accepted without prior consent.**

**Confederate Monuments Debate assigned.**

TR, Nov. 2

Confederate Monuments Debate prep.

**OPTIONAL**

Second of three films, two of which are REQUIRED; please note that these films are free for you

S, Nov. 5

7 PM - First Monday WWI Films presents "Paths of Glory," Roxy Theater

### **10. Debate Week**

T, Nov. 7

**Confederate Monuments Debate**

TR, Nov. 9

NO CLASS

**OPTIONAL**

5-6 PM, School of Art Faculty Lecture Series: "Cuba's Flag and Some Vexing Questions" lecture by Chacón, Social Science Building, Room 356, followed by:

6-7 PM, opening reception for the Faculty Exhibition, Gallery of Visual Arts

### **11. Work Week III**

T, Nov. 14

**Revised Term Papers due at the start of class. No late work will be accepted without prior consent.**

TR, Nov. 16

NO CLASS

**REQUIRED**

5:30-7 PM, Lecture: "Artis et belli: the Great War and its Art" by Dr. Chacón, Masquer Theatre, PARTV Center

### **12. Work Week IV**

T, Nov. 21

Presentations work day

TR, Nov. 23

NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Holiday

### **Presentations Week I**

T, Nov. 28

**Presentations begin**

TR, Nov. 30

**Presentations II**

**REQUIRED**

5-7pm, Lecture, "After One Hundred Years: Montana and the Great War" by Harry Fritz, Ph.D.,  
UM Professor Emeritus, History, Masquer Theatre, PARTV Center

**Presentations Week II**

**OPTIONAL**

Last of three films, two of which are REQUIRED

M, Dec. 4

7 PM - First Monday WWI Films presents "A Very Long Engagement," Roxy Theater

T, Dec. 5

**Presentations III**

TR, Dec. 7

**Presentations IV**

**REQUIRED**

5:30-6:30 PM, Lecture, "The Grit and the Glory: the Great War and its Poetry" by Lisa Simon,  
Ph.D., Masquer Theatre, PARTV Center

**Finals Week**

T, Dec. 12

Last day of classes.

TR, Dec. 14

NO CLASS. There is no final exam scheduled for this class. We shall only use the finals slot if  
the Presentations run over.

## Required Events On and Off Campus in Conjunction with the “Over There!” Exhibition

**REQUIRED** (you may skip the reception and Catalogue-signing, but the lecture is required)  
September 21 – Opening Reception and Catalog-signing, 5-7pm in the PARTV Lobby with 6pm lecture, “Over There! Montanans in the Great War,” presented by H. Rafael Chacón, Ph.D., in the Montana Theatre, PARTV Center

**REQUIRED** (one of two events)  
September 25 –President’s Lecture Series, “America’s Deadliest Battle: An Experiential Film of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive”, presented by Jo Throckmorton, Filmmaker and Owner, Jo Throckmorton Filmworks, 8pm, Montana Theatre, PARTV Center  
or  
"Missing, Broken, and Forgotten: The Never Ending Challenges of Filmmaking"  
3:00 PM Monday, September 25, 2017, GBB 123

**REQUIRED** (two of the three films below; please note that these films will be free for you)  
October 6 - First Monday WWI Films presents “Grand Illusion” 7pm, The Roxy Theater, 718 Higgins Ave., \$8/\$7 for students & seniors

November 5 - First Monday WWI Films presents “Paths of Glory” 7pm, Roxy Theater, 718 Higgins Ave., \$8/\$7 for students & seniors

December 4 - First Monday WWI Films presents “A Very Long Engagement,” 7pm, Roxy Theater, 718 Higgins Ave., \$8/\$7 for students & seniors

**OPTIONAL**  
S, November 12, 5-6 PM, School of Art Faculty Lecture Series: “Cuba’s Flag and Some Vexing Questions” lecture by H. Rafael Chacón, Social Science Building, Room 356, followed by the opening reception for the Faculty Exhibition, Gallery of Visual Arts, 6-7 PM.

**REQUIRED**  
November 16 –Lecture, “Artis et belli: the Great War and its Art” with H. Rafael Chacón, 5:30-7pm, Masquer Theatre, PARTV Center

**REQUIRED**  
November 30 – Lecture, “After One Hundred Years: Montana and the Great War” with Harry Fritz, Ph.D., UM Professor Emeritus, History, 5-7pm, Masquer Theatre, PARTV Center

**REQUIRED**  
December 7 – Lecture, “The Grit and the Glory: the Great War and its Poetry” with Lisa Simon, Ph.D., 5:30-6:30pm, Masquer Theatre, PARTV Center