Arts 5390.001
MA Seminar in Studio Art: Art Theory
Professor Amber Scoon
Email: amber.scoon@tamucc.edu
Office Phone: 825-2365
Office: CA 209B
Schedule: Wed: 3:30-6:00 pm
Location: CA 225
Office Hours: Monday: 11:30 am -12:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday: 12:00-2:00 pm

Course Description

Students will be introduced to important works of philosophy, theory and cultural theory as they relate to Art. Students will also be exposed to artists’ words in various forms. Ideas and texts will be examined in chronological order, from Ancient Greek Philosophy to Postmodern Theory. Art will be considered in light of socio-economic conditions, political trends and the progress of technologies. A broad range of artists and thinkers will be considered. Students will discuss, write, edit and complete an Artist Statement as well as present their own Artist Talk.

Reading List


Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course should:

- Become familiar with important works of philosophy, theory and cultural criticism as they relate to art.
- Demonstrate knowledge of various philosophers, theorist and cultural critics by writing three short essays.
- Complete a final 2-page essay that explores the relationship between the ideas of one particular philosopher and the student’s own creative work.

Evaluation

Grades will be based on student progress as demonstrated through active participation during group discussion, a positive and open attitude and completion of all written assignments. An active participant is on time to class, mentally
present, brings all necessary materials and volunteers thoughtful comments during group discussion/critique.

- Active Class Participation: 25%
- Short Written Assignments/ Response Papers: 25%
- 3 Short Essays: 25%
- 2 Page Essay: 25%

**Guidelines**

- When commenting on classmates’ ideas and art works, be constructive and positive.
- Violent or disrespectful language or behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom.
- Turn your cell phone off during class.

**Tentative Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

Week 1: Syllabus, Book List and Introduction to Art’s Relationship to Philosophy and Theory

Week 2: Constructing a Time Line: Terms, Events, Movements, Thinkers and Artists (Romanticism- Postmodernism)

Week 3: Classical Aesthetics
Reading: Plato and Aristotle

Week 4: Romanticism
Reading: Kant and Hegel

Week 5: Modernism
Reading: Freud and Heidegger

Week 6: Modernism and the Frankfurt School
Reading: Benjamin and Adorno

Week 7: Communication Theory
Reading: Habermas and Lukacs

Week 8: Postmodernism
Readings: Lyotard, Baudrillard, Derrida

Week 9: Post-Postmodernism
Readings: Badiou, Agamben
Week 10: The Role of Critics
Reading: Greenberg, Rosenberg, Storr

Week 11: The History of the Tele-Visual
Reading: Virilio, Lotringer, McLuhan

Week 12: The Effects of Technology
Readings: Benjamin, Heidegger, Virilio, Schirmacher

Week 12: The Words of Artists
Readings: Pollock, Picasso, Malevich, Rothko, DeKooning, Matiss, Mondrian

Week 14: Nonwestern Art and Theory
Readings: Dennis Dutton

Week 15: Art and Politics
Marx, Benjamin, Jameson

Week 17: Feminist Perspectives
Kristeva, Arendt, Louise Bourgeois

Week 16: Resistance, Activism and Alternatives
Readings: John Berger

Response Papers are Due at the Beginning of Each Class.

Three Short Essays are due on Week 4, Week 8 and Week 12.

2 Page Essay is Due at the End of the Semester

Attendance Policy
Attendance and punctuality are mandatory for this class. If you anticipate missing four classes or more, for any reason at all, I urge you to reschedule this class. Your final grade will be lowered if you miss more than 3 classes.

Lockers
See Art Office to reserve a locker in the hallway.

Academic Honesty
Student handbook: students who violate academic integrity and regulations by plagiarism, other academic dishonesty or disruptive behavior will be held accountable by faculty and may have their grades adjusted accordingly.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures

These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Notice to Students with Disabilities
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.