ARTS 3353.001 Contemporary Art Since 1945

Course description:
The course will examine the development of architecture, sculpture, painting, video, installation, and related arts in Europe and the United States from 1945 to the turn of the century and beyond, in light of the historical and intellectual background of the period. Topics covered will include the formation of Abstract Expressionism in New York in the 1940s and its institutionalization into the 1950s, the rise of pop art and minimalism in the 1960s, as well as land art, conceptual art, performance, and new media. The question of postmodernism will be addressed in the context of issues related to themes of the body and social categories, the circulation of commodities, the return to representation in painting in the 1980s, and to the shift in concern for audience and public art.

Instructor: Professor Dr. Laura Petican
Lecture Times: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 11:00am-12:15pm
Location: BH 207
Office: CA 208
Office hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:30-1:30pm
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Required texts:

Recommended texts:


Evaluation:
Engagement Assignment: 10% (2 x 5% each)
Research Paper: 20%
Group Research Presentation: 20%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
Participation: 10%
Engagement Assignments: 10% (2 x 5% each)
Due Date: February 10, 12, 19
Each student will respond verbally and/or in written form to an assigned reading, viewing exercise, lecture material, or combination thereof. The assignment will engage students with various media and academic environments connected with course themes and conceptual motifs. Specific parameters of the Engagement Assignment will vary according to materials consulted; i.e. digital media or a guest lecture. Your response to the assignment may be articulated, for example, in terms of agreement or disagreement with the author’s perspective, or it may identify limitations or particular strengths within the argument, and should be supported with examples.

Research Paper: 20%
Due Date: Tuesday, May 5
Research Papers will articulate the thesis presented in the Research Paper Proposal according to the critical rationale and methodology outlined. Research Papers must be approximately 2,000 words (approximately 8 pages) in length and accompanied by a List of Figures, images of artworks discussed, and a complete bibliography of all works cited. Research Papers will be graded according to the clarity of argument, demonstrated ability to synthesize both visual and literary sources, level of engagement with critical socio-cultural issues related to the course, and strength of thesis with respect to examples and evidence provided. All documents must observe Chicago Style formatting guidelines.

Presentation: 20%  TBD
Each group will lead a class discussion on a pre-determined topic related to the larger themes of the course. The group presentations will address key movements, artists, and artworks in connection with the assigned reading and will relate these topics to the broader scope of contemporary socio-cultural developments. All members of the group must participate equally in the preparation and delivery of the presentation, as well as in the following class discussion. Each group member must speak for approximately 15 minutes. The group must prepare 3-4 questions that will generate class discussion in connection with the corresponding reading. As a means of orientation, the presenting group will distribute a one-page handout to each class member that outlines the main themes and concepts addressed. Presentations will be graded according to the group’s general management of the presentation in terms of timing and distribution of work, the group’s ability to communicate their topic clearly and concisely to the class, its capacity to draw connections between artworks and the assigned reading, the clarity and relevance of the handout, and the quality of questions formulated and discussion generated.

Mid-term Exam: 20%  Thursday, March 5
The mid-term exam will cover material from Weeks 1-7, inclusively. The exam will be comprised of slide identification, short answer, and essay-style questions.

Final Exam: 20%  TBD
The final exam will cover material from Weeks 9-15, inclusively. The exams will be comprised of slide identification, short answer, and essay-style questions.

Participation: 10%
Students are required to attend class each week with assigned readings completed and prepared to engage in discussion related to lecture topics. The participation mark is formulated according to the extent and quality of students’ engagement in class discussions, including those accompanying student presentations.
WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction
Thursday, January 22
Syllabus and Guidelines Orientation

Week 2 – Introduction/New York in the Forties
Tuesday, January 27
Fineberg, Chapter 1: pp. 15-19
Fineberg, Chapter 2: pp. 21-32
Thursday, January 29
Fineberg, Chapter 2: continued, pp. 32-47

Week 3 – A Dialogue with Europe
Tuesday, February 3
Fineberg, Chapter 3: pp. 49-71
Thursday, February 5
Fineberg, Chapter 3: continued, pp. 71-87

Week 4 – Existentialism Comes to the Fore
Tuesday, February 10
Fineberg, Chapter 4: pp. 89-105 Engagement Assignment #1
Thursday, February 12
Fineberg, Chapter 4: continued, pp. 105-123 Engagement Assignment #1

Week 5 – Engagement Assignment #2
Tuesday, February 17
Fineberg, Chapter 12: ‘Appropriation,’ pp. 390-394
Thursday, February 19
Guest speaker: Professor Courtney Doagoo

Week 6 – The New European Masters of the Late Forties/Some International Tendencies of the Fifties
Tuesday, February 24
Fineberg, Chapter 5: pp. 125-141
Thursday, February 26
Fineberg, Chapter 6: pp. 143-163

Week 7 – The Beat Generation
Tuesday, March 3
Fineberg, Chapter 7: pp. 165-179
Thursday, March 5
Fineberg, Chapter 7: continued, pp. 179-207

Week 8 – Mid-term Review and Exam
Tuesday, March 10
Review class
Thursday, March 12
Mid-term Exam (20%)

March 16-20 Spring Break – no class
Week 9 – *Asian and European Vanguards of the Later Fifties*
Tuesday, March 24
Fineberg, Chapter 8: pp. 209-218

Thursday, March 26
Fineberg, Chapter 8: continued, pp. 218-227

Week 10 – *The Landscape of Signs: Pop Art*
Tuesday, March 31
Fineberg, Chapter 9: pp. 229-240

Thursday, April 2
Fineberg, Chapter 9: continued, pp. 240-255

Week 11 – *In the Nature of Materials: The Later Sixties*
Tuesday, April 7
Fineberg, Chapter 10: pp. 281-301

Thursday, April 9
Fineberg, Chapter 10: pp. 301-321

Week 12 – *Politics and Postmodernism*
Tuesday, April 14
Fineberg, Chapter 11: pp. 323-343

Thursday, April 16
Fineberg, Chapter 11: pp. 343-360

Week 13 – *Corporate Culture and its Enemies*
Tuesday, April 21
Fineberg, Chapter 12: pp. 363-376

Thursday, April 23
Fineberg, Chapter 12: pp. 376-390

Week 14 – *Painting in the Seventies*
Tuesday, April 28
Fineberg, Chapter 13: pp. 397-415

Thursday, April 30
Fineberg, Chapter 13: pp. 415-433

Week 15 – *Final Exam Review*
Tuesday, May 5

Research Paper due: 20% (May 5)
COURSE POLICIES

Submission of Work

Only typed hard copies of written assignments will be accepted. Hand-written documents, e-mail submissions, and files saved to disks will not be accepted. Digital submissions via BlackBoard software will only be accepted where indicated (i.e. Engagement Assignments).

Late Policy

Students with special needs should consult the professor before the assignment due dates. Late assignments will be penalized except in the case of documented medical or other emergency. Penalties are as follows: 2% per day for the first five days, 5% per day thereafter. After ten days, late assignments will not be accepted.

Attendance and Tardiness

Consistent attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absences will be subject to a 3% penalty in the student’s final grade in the course. Unexcused tardiness will be reflected in the student’s participation grade. Absences will only be excused upon presentation of official medical and/or emergency documentation.

Statement of Civility

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade on that assignment.
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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Re: Depth and Breadth of Knowledge
   Students will have a thorough knowledge of the key critical and theoretical frameworks that pertain to the period being studied and will be able to engage with/analyze works of art from that period according to those frameworks.

2. Re: Knowledge of Methodologies
   Students will acquire the discursive/theoretical vocabularies that are utilized in debates within the field, and will demonstrate their knowledge of the field through the deployment of the vocabulary orally and in writing.

3. Re: Application of Knowledge
   Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to knowledge of scholarly works.

4. Re: Communication Skills
   Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing with regard to their art history research, and will be able to utilize different genres of writing for different purposes (i.e., to write an academic paper or deliver a presentation).