ARTS 5393.001 Seminar in Art History-Aesthetics
The Practice of Art History: Theory and Methods

Course description:
The course will cover key developments in the evolution of art history as a formal discipline. Students will be engaged in discussions related to the practice of art history from an historiographical perspective and will conduct verbal and written analyses in connection with primary and secondary sources derived from canonical scholarship. The course will include discussion art historical texts related to antiquity and the Middle Ages, the early Modern period, the Enlightenment, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and postmodernity. These analyses will be supported by consideration of texts by Vasari, Winckelmann, Kant, Hegel, Wölflin, Gombrich, Heidegger, Derrida, Foucault, and Benjamin, among others, in the context of notions of aesthetics, deconstruction, authorship, identity, and globalization.

Instructor: Professor Dr. Laura Petican
Lecture times: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 11:00am-12:15pm
Location: ECDC 238
Office: CA Room 208
Office hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:30pm-1:30pm
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Required texts:


Recommended texts:

Evaluation:
Research Paper Proposal: 10%
Research Paper: 30%
Mid-term exam: 20%
Discussion Lead: 20%
Participation: 20%
Research Paper Proposal: 10%
Due Date: Thursday, September 25
Students will submit a 1000-word (approximately 4 pages) outline of their Research Paper Proposal in preparation for the Research Paper. The proposal must include a working thesis that clearly states the topic and objective of the paper, a statement of intent that outlines a critical rationale for choosing your topic, and a methodological plan. A List of Figures and accompanying images as well as a preliminary, annotated bibliography of 10-15 sources must accompany the Proposal. All documents must observe Chicago Style formatting guidelines.

Research Paper: 30%
Due Date: Tuesday, December 2
Research Papers will articulate the thesis presented in the Research Paper Proposal according to the critical rationale and methodology outlined. Research Papers must be between 5000-6250 words (approximately 20-25 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.

Discussion Lead: 20%
Each student will lead a class discussion based on assigned readings. The presentation will address key movement(s), artists and/or artworks in connection with the assigned reading and will relate these topics to the broader scope of contemporary socio-political, philosophical, and art historiographical developments. Each presentation must be planned to accommodate the entire class time and must incorporate questions toward generating class discussion. The presenter will provide the class with a one-page handout that outlines the main themes and concepts addressed in the assigned reading. Presentations will be graded according to the general management of the presentation in terms of conceptualization of the topic, ability to communicate topic clearly and concisely to the class, depth of connections drawn between artworks and assigned reading, clarity and relevance of the handout, quality of questions formulated, and discussion generated.

Mid-Term Exam: 20%
Date: Thursday, October 16
The Mid-term Exam will cover material from the first half of the course. The format of the exam will be comprised of short answer and essay style questions. The goal of the exam is to prepare students for the Discussion Lead assignment scheduled for the second half of the course, which, by way of application of primary sources, will rely upon familiarity with themes already established.

Participation: 20%
Students are required to attend class 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
Thursday, August 28 – Introduction

Week 2
Tuesday, September 2
Williams: Introduction, pp. 1-6; Antiquity and the Middle Ages, pp. 7-26
Thursday, September 4
Williams: Antiquity and the Middle Ages, continued, pp. 26-53

Week 3
Tuesday, September 9
Williams: The Early Modern Period, pp. 55-79
Thursday, September 11
Williams: The Early Modern Period, continued, pp. 79-94

Week 4
Tuesday, September 16
Williams: The Enlightenment, pp. 95-109
Thursday, September 18
Williams: The Enlightenment, continued, pp. 109-121

Week 5
Tuesday, September 23
Williams: The Nineteenth Century, pp. 122-147
Thursday, September 25
Williams: The Nineteenth Century, continued, pp. 147-175

Research Paper Proposals due: Thursday, September 25

Week 6
Tuesday, September 30
Williams: The Early Twentieth Century, pp. 176-213
Thursday, October 2
Williams: The Early Twentieth Century, continued, pp. 213-230

Week 7
Tuesday, October 7
Williams: Postmodernism, pp. 231-260
Thursday, October 9
Williams: Postmodernism, continued, pp. 261-278

Week 8
Tuesday, October 14
Review class
Thursday, October 16
Mid-term Exam
Week 9
Tuesday, October 21
Preziosi: Art as History, Introduction, pp. 13-21
Thursday, October 23
Preziosi: Giorgio Vasari, pp. 22-26; Johann Joachim Winckelmann, pp. 27-34

Week 10
Tuesday, October 28
Preziosi: Aesthetics, Introduction, pp. 55-61
Thursday, October 30
Preziosi: Immanuel Kant, pp. 62-79; Hegel, pp. 80-88

Week 11
Tuesday, November 4
Preziosi: Form, Content, Style, Introduction, pp. 115-118
Thursday, November 6
Preziosi: Heinrich Wölfflin, pp. 119-128; Ernst Gombrich, pp. 129-140

Week 12
Tuesday, November 11
Preziosi: Deconstruction and the Limits of Interpretation, Introduction, pp. 271-273; Martin Heidegger, pp. 284-295
Thursday, November 13
Preziosi: Meyer Schapiro, pp. 296-300; Jacques Derrida, pp. 301-315

Week 13
Tuesday, November 18
Preziosi: Authorship and Identity, Introduction, pp. 317-320; Michel Foucault, pp. 321-334
Thursday, November 20
Preziosi: Craig Owens, pp. 335-351; Judith Butler, pp. 356-366

Week 14
Tuesday, November 25
Preziosi: Globalization and its Discontents, Introduction, pp. 403-408
Thursday, November 27 Thanksgiving – no class
Preziosi: Timothy Mitchell, pp. 409-423; Walter Benjamin, pp. 435-442

Week 15
Tuesday, December 2
Preziosi: Epilogue, pp. 488-503; Coda, pp. 504-509

Research Papers due (Tuesday, December 2): 30%
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.

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. 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.
Grade Appeals

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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 Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Disabilities Accommodations

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 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.

**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).