Course description:
The course will examine the evolution of architecture, sculpture, painting, digital media, installation, and interdisciplinary arts in the global context from 1980 to the present, in light of the historical and intellectual background of the period. Topics covered will include the transition from postmodernism to contemporaneity, considering notions of appropriation, commodification, consumerism, memory, history, and globalization. Lectures will be constructed upon thematic analysis of contemporary, primary sources coupled with secondary source material, and complemented by presentation opportunities and class discussion.

Instructor: Professor Dr. Laura Petican
Lecture times: Mondays/Wednesdays, 2:00pm-3:15pm
Location: CA 228
Office: CA 208
Office hours: Mondays/Wednesdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm
Telephone: (361) 825-5752
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Required text:

Recommended texts:


Evaluation:
Engagement Assignments: 2 x 5% (total of 10%)
Group Research Presentation: 20%
Research Paper: 20%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
Participation: 10%
Engagement Assignments: 2 x 5% (total of 10%)
Due Date: September 7; November 21
Each student will respond verbally and/or in written form to an assigned reading, viewing exercise, lecture material, or combination thereof. The purpose of these assignments is based on engaging students with various media and academic environments connected with course themes and conceptual motifs. Specific parameters of each 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.

Group Research Presentation: 20%
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 following the presentation and which focus on issues raised by artworks discussed in connection with the corresponding reading. This discussion should last approximately 10 minutes. 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.

Research Paper: 20%  Monday, December 5
The Research Paper will articulate the thesis presented in our formal meetings according to the critical rationale and methodology outlined. Research Papers must be between 2000-2500 words (approximately 8-10 pages) in length and accompanied by a List of Figures, images of artworks discussed, and a complete bibliography of all works cited. All documents must follow Chicago Style guidelines. Research Papers will be graded according to the clarity of your argument, your ability to synthesize both visual and literary sources, the level of engagement with critical socio-cultural issues related to the course, and the strength of your thesis with respect to examples and evidence provided.

Mid-term Exam: 20%  Wednesday, October 12
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 9-16, 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 following group presentations. Absences amounting to more than 15% of classes may result in the student being barred from submitting the final paper.
WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week 1
Wednesday, August 24 – Introduction

Week 2
Monday, August 29
Introduction; pp. 10-17
Wednesday, August 31
Chapter 1: Discovering the Contemporary; pp. 18-45

Week 3
Monday, September 5
Labor Day – no class
Wednesday, September 7
Chapter 2: Taking Pictures: Appropriation and Its Consequences; pp. 46-64
Engagement Assignment #1 (please see course website on BlackBoard for instructions)

Week 4
Monday, September 12
Chapter 3: Back to the Easel: Neo-Expressionism and the Return of Painting; pp. 65-74
Wednesday, September 14
Chapter 3: continued; pp. 74-90

Week 5
Monday, September 19
Chapter 4: Into the Streets; pp. 91-101
Wednesday, September 21
Chapter 4: continued; pp. 101-115

Week 6
Monday, September 26
Chapter 5: Commodities and Consumerism; pp. 116-132
Wednesday, September 28
Chapter 5: continued; pp. 132-139

Week 7
Monday, October 3
Chapter 6: Memory and History; pp. 140-151
Wednesday, October 5
Chapter 6: continued; pp. 151-167

Week 8
Monday, October 10
Review class
Wednesday, October 12
Mid-term Exam: 20%
Week 9
Monday, October 17
Chapter 7: Culture, Body, Self; pp. 168-182
Wednesday, October 19
Chapter 7: continued; pp. 182-192

Week 10
Monday, October 24
Chapter 8: Eastward Expansion; pp. 193-204
Wednesday, October 26
Chapter 8: continued; pp. 204-217

Week 11
Monday, October 31
Chapter 9: Engaging the Global Present; pp. 218-234
Wednesday, November 2
Chapter 9: continued; pp. 218-234

Week 12
Monday, November 7
Chapter 10: New Metaphors and New Narratives; pp. 250-265
Wednesday, November 9
Chapter 10: continued; pp. 265-279

Week 13
Monday, November 14
Chapter 11: The Art of Contemporary Experience; pp. 280-291
Wednesday, November 16
Chapter 11: continued; pp. 291-311

Week 14
Monday, November 21
Engagement Assignment #2; please see BlackBoard
Wednesday, November 23
Reading Days – no class

Week 15
Monday, November 28
Film and discussion
Wednesday, November 30
Film and discussion

Week 16 – It’s a Wrap!
Monday, December 5
Review class

Research Papers due (Monday, December 5): 20%

Final Exam (TBD): 20%
COURSE POLICIES

Submission of Work
Written assignments must be submitted as hard copy and digitally via e-mail. Digital submissions via BlackBoard software will only be accepted where indicated.

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.

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
Students who feel they have 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. 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 (http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance is mandatory for your success, will be recorded during each class session and is considered as part of the professionalism element of your final grade.

- You will lose a single letter grade on your fourth (4) absence.
- Five (5) absences will result in the drop of another letter grade.
- Six (6) absences will result in the failure of the course.
- Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will result in the recording of one (1) full absence.
- Students are required to attend class for the duration of the scheduled time or until the Professor dismisses the class.
- Attending critiques are mandatory.

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 judgments, 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)