Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
DEPARTMENT OF ART
Spring 2017

ARTS 5393.001 Seminar in Art History-Aesthetics
Explorations in Visual Culture

Course description:
The course will cover key developments in the evolution of fine art, aesthetic experience, and visual culture, and their implications in the popular and intellectual realms. Considering a wide range of cultural matter, discussions and assignments will be concerned with analysis of images and power, the role of viewers and audience, traditional and new media technologies, media and consumer cultures, and the effect of scientific development on cultural dialogues. Secondary source material will be combined with primary, contemporary cultural discourse to stimulate contemplation of practices and models of thinking regarding artistic and political agency, the role of history in current social engagement, and the synthesis of form and meaning.

Instructor: Professor Dr. Laura Petican
Lecture times: Monday/Wednesday, 11:00am-12:15pm
Location: BH 202
Office: CA 208
Office hours: Mondays/Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30pm
Telephone: (361) 825-5752
E-mail: laura.petican@tamucc.edu

Required texts:

Recommended texts:

Evaluation:
Engagement Assignment: 10%
Research Paper Proposal: 10%
Mid-term exam: 20%
Discussion Lead: 20%
Research Paper: 20%
Participation: 20%
Engagement Assignment: 10% Wednesday, March 1
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. Students’ responses to the assignment may be articulated, for example, in terms of agreement or disagreement with the author’s perspective, or they may identify limitations or particular strengths within the argument, and should be supported with examples.

Research Paper Proposal: 10% Wednesday, February 22
Students will submit a 500-750-word (approximately 2-3 pages) 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 the topic, and a methodological plan. A List of Figures and accompanying images as well as a preliminary, annotated bibliography of 8-10 sources must accompany the Proposal. All documents must observe Chicago Style formatting guidelines.

Mid-Term Exam: 20% Wednesday, March 8
The Mid-term Exam will cover material from Weeks 1-8, inclusively. 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 previously discussed.

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.

Research Paper: 20% Monday, May 1
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 3000-3750 words (approximately 12-15 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.

Participation: 20%
Students are required to attend class with assigned readings completed and prepared to engage in discussion related to lecture topics. The participation grade 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
Wednesday, January 18

Week 2
Monday, January 23
Wednesday, January 25

Week 3
Monday, January 30
Wednesday, February 1
Sturken and Cartwright: Chapter 4: Realism and Perspective: From Renaissance Painting to Digital Media, pp. 141-182.

Week 4
Monday, February 6
Wednesday, February 8

Week 5
Monday, February 13
Wednesday, February 15

Week 6
Monday, February 20
Wednesday, February 22

Research Paper Proposals due

Week 7
Monday, February 27
Film
Wednesday, March 1
Engagement Assignment: please see BlackBoard

Week 8
Monday, March 6
Review class
Wednesday, March 8
Mid-term Exam
March 13-17 Spring Break

Week 9
Monday, March 20

Wednesday, March 22

Week 10
Monday, March 27

Wednesday, March 29

Week 11
Monday, April 3

Wednesday, April 5

Week 12
Monday, April 10

Wednesday, April 12

Week 13
Monday, April 17

Wednesday, April 19

Week 14
Monday, April 24

Wednesday, April 26

Week 15
Monday, May 1

Research Papers due (Monday, May 1): 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 PROCESS
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 (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). 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’s Office.

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)