CONTEMPORARY ART SINCE 1945

Course Description:

This course surveys the origins and development of major movements in Western Contemporary Art, beginning with the end of World War II in 1945. Those movements which will be covered include Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Op Art, Minimal Art, Super Realism, Conceptual Art, and Performance Art, among others.

Required Text:

H. H. Arnason, History of Modern Art, Seventh Edition (Volume II)

Student Learning Outcomes:

The goals of the course are to make students aware of the history of art during the Contemporary period (1945-on) in Western culture. The outcomes of the course will include the development of critical thinking skills through the examination of the numerous social and political forces that have impacted on the development of global art in the Contemporary period.

1. Students will gain an understanding of the history of art in the Contemporary period through readings, class participation and attendance in lectures. This knowledge will be measured by test performance and quality of in class reaction papers.

2. Students will gain a deeper understanding of select areas of the history of art from the Contemporary period by completing writing assignments that require critical thinking.

Grading:

Your grade will be based upon:
1. Class attendance and participation (10%)
2. Test # 1 and # 2 (40 %)
3. Written assignments listed under 3 (30 %)
4. Final Examination (20%)
1. The class attendance and participation grade will be based upon attendance in class, your contributions to class discussion, and the completion of assigned reaction papers. The reaction papers will consist of one to two page responses to movies shown in class, comparison and contrast assignments, and presentations made by guest speakers. In addition, some assignments may be made that relate to the text. These response papers should be submitted after class to the professor and should preferably be typed, unless the student can write legibly by hand.

Additional opportunities for extra credit assignments related to local talks and exhibitions will also be presented from time to time throughout the semester.

2. Exams will consist of slide identifications with discussion of single works of art in essay form. You must identify the works at the top of the page and then discuss them in well-organized paragraphs with complete sentences. The essays should broadly encompass the ideas about the different artists, their works of art, the movements that they participated in, and the issues pertaining to Contemporary Art.

Slide reviews in power point format will be made available through Blackboard. Whereas it is not required that you study these images, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you do so, as they will help narrow the focus to a representative number of the images covered in class. In addition, review of the images will help to reinforce the visual learning that needs to take place in this class in order to prepare you to be a practicing artist in the future.

Helpful hints for doing well on tests in this course: I recommend that you review your class notes on a weekly basis, as this will help you to commit the information to memory. This means you need to be taking notes! Over the years I have found that grades are higher for students who are actively engaged in note taking during class. As students take notes, they are more engaged mentally in the class, participate more fully in class discussion, and are better prepared for the examinations. Reading the textbook before classes further bolsters your learning and is also highly recommended as reinforcement of in class learning. In addition, an attitude of interest will help you overall. Texting during class or looking at social media or email on your laptop during class detracts from your ability to absorb the information. If you are too tired to stay alert, grab a cup of coffee beforehand. Do not come to class and put your head on the desk. Active engagement in the classroom helps with your grade.

Other helpful hints for doing well on tests in this course: First, you need to buy the book and read the book. Secondly, you need to attend class on a regular basis and pay attention (not texting on your cell phone, doodling or surfing the internet). I also recommend that you take notes on lectures, to remain actively engaged in class.
Thirdly, I encourage students to form study groups, as I find that learning is reinforced through the sharing of class notes, readings from the text and other outside readings that are brought to group study sessions. I also recommend that you review your class notes on a weekly basis, as this will help you to commit the information to memory. This means you need to be taking notes! Over the years I have found that grades are higher for students who are actively engaged in note taking during class.

3. Writing Assignments that are attached:
   a. Art in the Movies
   b. Contemporary Art in the News
   c. Weekly class notes (January-end of March)

**Grading Scale:**

Your final grade for the course will be generated utilizing the four components listed under “Grading” in the percentages indicated.

1. 100-90 point average=A
2. 89-80 point average=B
3. 79-70 point average=C
4. 69-60 point average=D
5. 59-0 point average=F

**Academic Honesty:**

In accordance with university policy, “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, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work).”

(Undergraduate Catalogue)

“Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to the course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic dishonesty, and with giving sanction to any student involved.”

(Undergraduate Catalogue)

As outlined in the undergraduate catalogue, the punishment for academic dishonesty can range from a written reprimand to the assigning of an F for the work in question or the class in its entirety. In addition, severe punishment can result in the dismissal of the student from the program or the University.
My recommendation about cheating, is DON'T do it. It is not worth it! In my opinion, academic honesty is of the utmost importance. My personal policy is to give you a failing grade in the course if you are caught cheating on an examination or plagiarizing in a paper. My advice to you is to do the best you can on your own. When in doubt about how to reference information from outside sources, please ask my advice. I am more than happy to help you.

Cell phones and laptops:

Cell phones and laptops are NOT permitted in my class. Be sure that you turn off your cell phone prior to coming to class. You are not permitted to text during class or leave class to talk on your cell phone. I will confiscate the cell phone of any student caught using their cell phone during class and will return it at my discretion. You need to concentrate on the images on the screen, so please do not bring your laptop. I have noticed that students on laptops do not ever look up at the slide images, rendering learning almost impossible. This lack of engagement will have a negative impact on your learning in this class.

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://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/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. 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.

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.

**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.

**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.
NOTE: A great deal of material is covered in this class. It is recommended that the students begin studying the first week of class. This course cannot be passed through last minute studying alone. It is recommended that you do the readings as scheduled and that you begin reviewing the images on your own as soon as possible.

Schedule:

The following is a tentative schedule. It may vary somewhat during the course of the semester, but the readings should be done on time to keep the student up with the course requirements.

All reading assignments are from: Arnason, *History of Modern Art*, Vol. II

Week 1  Introduction to class
Week 2  Chapters 16
Week 3  Chapter 17
Week 4  Chapter 18
Week 5  Test # 1
Week 6  Chapter 19
Week 7  Chapter 20
Week 8  Art in the Movies Assignment Due

SPRING BREAK

Week 9  Chapter 21
Week 10  Chapter 22
Week 11  Chapter 23, Test # 2
Week 12  Chapter 24, Last Day to Turn in Contemporary Art in the News
Week 13  Chapter 25
Week 14  Chapter 26
Week 15  Chapter 27
Please retain this syllabus, refer to it regularly throughout the semester and follow all deadlines as listed unless otherwise notified during class or on blackboard. You are expected to turn in all work on time and be prepared for all examinations without reminders from me. When I change a deadline or give assignment information in class, I will send a follow-up announcement via blackboard. Grades are also posted on blackboard so you should check blackboard on a regular basis.
Art in the Movies
Visit the following blog: www.artinthemovies.wordpress.com.
This blog tells us that Hollywood teaches us 10 Things about the Art World:

1. Art Dealers are Evil…
2. Male Artists are Cads
3. Regular People Hate the Art World
4. The Art World is Fancy
5. Art People Talk Funny
6. Artists are Scumbags (isn’t this redundant with 2?)
7. Anything Can be Art
8. Artists Have Rocky Love Lives (if you want to know why, refer back to 2 and 6!)
9. Art People Hate the Country (as in, not the city!)
10. Artists will Do Anything for Attention

Watch a movie or television show listed on the blog. You can also pick a movie or television show not listed on the blog if I have seen it or am familiar with it. Watching an old episode of Columbo on television gave me the idea for this project. The stereotypes about art and artists in that show were very dated to my 2015 eyes!

1. Write a brief synopsis of the plot.
2. Tell me how you see these stereotypes portrayed in your selected flick or show.
3. How does the art shown in the movie reflect that particular era in Contemporary Art? (In other words, if the film was made in 1967, how have things changed? If it was made in 2007, do you see any changes, etc.?). Has our attitude about that art changed? In other words, would the art portrayed in the movie still be considered important or valuable or would the styles of the works make them passé? Site specific works of art shown in the film or television show (a screen shot of relevant works would be nice to include at the end of your paper!).
4. Divide paper into the three sections:
   a. Plot synopsis
   b. Stereotypes
   c. Attitudes about contemporary art at that time

   Should be able to do all of this in three or four double-spaced typewritten pages (700-1000 words).
Contemporary Art in the News

Go to the website entitled: www.artnet.com. Enter your e-mail address to get daily headlines from artnet news.
Select four articles on contemporary artists only (1945-present) and download the full articles.
After reading the article, answer the following questions:
   1. Why did you select this article (what in the headline attracted your attention)?
   2. What did you learn about contemporary art from the article?
   3. Where there any surprising facts that you discovered?

Include a copy of the article with your comments. You should write three paragraphs—one for each question.
These articles with commentaries will be due no later than April 15, 2016, but you can turn them in anytime that you like during the semester (early is better!).
25 points each for a total of 100 points.

Turn in notes each week on Blackboard—January through end of March.