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

ARTS 5393.001 Seminar in Art History-Aesthetics  
Italian Art in the Twentieth Century

Course description:
The course will cover key movements in Italian art and culture throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including developments in painting, sculpture, architecture, performance, installation, and industrial and fashion design. Analysis of artworks and cultural developments will be conducted in relation to the larger socio-political context, ranging from the effects of fascism on cultural production in the inter-war era, to the apparent break with tradition following World War II, the effects of the miracolo italiano, to Italy’s role in the international artistic arena in the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Conceptual themes such as the baroque and neo-baroque, cultural memory and inheritance, nationalism, and the co-existence of the present and the past will be considered with respect to Italy’s cultural specificity in the context of late twentieth-century globalization, mass markets, and neo-liberal economics.

Instructor: Professor Dr. Laura Petican  
Lecture times: Mondays/Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:45 pm  
Location: CA 228  
Office: CA 208  
Office hours: Mondays/Wednesdays, 12:30am-1:30pm  
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E-mail: laura.petican@tamucc.edu

Consulted texts:  


Recommended texts:  


Evaluation:  
Research Paper Proposal: 20%  
Research Paper: 30%  
Presentation: 30%  
Participation: 20%
Research Paper Proposal: 20%
Due Date: Monday, 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: Monday, December 4
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.

Presentation: 30%
Each student will lead a class discussion on a pre-determined topic related to course themes. 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 developments. Each presentation must be planned for approximately 45 minutes and must incorporate 2-3 questions toward generating class discussion. The presenter will provide the class with a preparatory reading one week in advance of their presentation and, as a means of orientation, will distribute a one-page handout that outlines the main themes and concepts addressed. 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.

Participation: 20%
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.
Week 1 – August 28: Introduction: Italian Art Between Tradition and Revolution

Week 2 – September 4, & Impressionism and the Macchiaioli – The Industrial Revolution and the European Context
Germano Celant, ‘Art from Italy.’ In Braun, 19-20.

Week 3 – September 11, 13: Italian Avant-Gardism, 1890s-1920s
Anna Maria Damigella, ‘Divisionism and Symbolism in Italy at the Turn of the Century.’ In Braun, 33-41.
Jole De Sanna, ‘Conceptual Gesture and Enclosed Form: Italian Sculpture of the Early Twentieth Century.’ In Braun, 43-7.

Week 4 – September 18, 20: Surrealism and the Scuola Metafisica

Week 5 – September 25, 27: Futurism, Fascism and Architecture
Research Paper Proposal due: 20% (February 20)
Philip V. Cannistraro, ‘Fascism and Culture in Italy, 1919-1945.’ In Braun, 147-54.
Emily Braun, ‘Mario Sironi and a Fascist Art.’ In Braun, 173-80.

Week 6 – October 2 (4th-Labor Day, no class): The Figure and Abstraction
Joan M. Lukach, ‘Giorgio Morandi and Modernism in Italy Between the Wars.’ In Braun, 155-64.
Week 7, October 9, 11: Mid-Century Neo-Realism and Abstraction
Mario De Micheli, ‘Realism and the Post-war Debate.’ In Braun, 281-7.
Renato Guttuso, ‘On Realism, the Present, and Other Things,’ 1957. In Stiles and Selz, 178-80.

Week 8, October 16, 18: The Miracolo Italiano: Informale and Early Conceptualism

Week 9, October 23, 25: The Miracolo Italiano: Informale and Early Conceptualism, continued

Alberto Asor Rosa, ‘Contemporary Italy.’ In Braun, 359-62.
Caroline Tisdall, ‘“Materia”: The Context of Arte Povera.’ In Braun, 363-8.

Week 11, November 6, 8: Between Nature and Industry: Arte Povera, 1960s-1980s, continued

Week 12, November 13, 15: Return to the Figure: The Transavanguardia
**Week 13, November 20 (22nd-no class): Italian Fashion, Design, and Cinema**
Italo Zannier, ‘Reality and Italian Photography.’ In Celant, 316-23.
Gian Piero Brunetta, ‘Cinema, the Leading Art.’ In Celant, 440-9.
Luigi Settembrini, ‘From Haute Couture to Prêt-à-Porter.’ In Celant, 484-94.
Valerie Steele, ‘Italian Fashion and America’. In Celant, 496-505.

**Week 14, November 27, November 29: Performance: Strategic Collaborations**

**Week 15, December 4: Contemporary Italian Art: Return to the Past?**
*Research Paper Due: 30% (May 6)*
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)