Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
DEPARTMENT OF ART
Fall 2018

ARTS 5393.001 Seminar in Art History-Aesthetics
The Postmodern Turn: Artistic Currents Since 1980

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 co-teaching opportunities.

Instructor: Professor Dr. Laura Petican
Lecture times: Mondays/Wednesdays, 3:30pm-4:45pm
Location: OCNR 130
Office: CA 208
Office hours: Mondays/Wednesdays, 2:00pm-3:00pm
Telephone: (361) 825-5752
E-mail: laura.petican@tamucc.edu

Required texts:


Recommended texts:


Evaluation:
Engagement Assignments: 10% (2 x 5% each)
Research Paper Proposal: 10%
Mid-term exam: 20%
Discussion Lead: 20%
Research Paper: 20%
Participation: 20%
Engagement Assignments: 10% (2 x 5% each)  
Due Date: September 17, 19
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.

Research Paper Proposal: 10% Wednesday, September 26
Students will submit a 750-1250-word (approximately 3-5 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 your 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, October 10
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% TBD
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, December 3
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.

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 – Introduction
Wednesday, August 22
Kalb: Introduction, pp. 10-17

Week 2 – Discovering the Contemporary
Monday, August 27
Labor Day Holiday – no class
Wednesday, August 29
Kalb: Chapter 1, pp. 18-45

Week 3 – Taking Pictures: Appropriation and Its Consequences
Monday, September 3
Kalb: Chapter 2, pp. 46-64.
Wednesday, September 5
Dumbadze and Hudson: Ina Blom, ‘Inhabiting the Technosphere: Art and Technology Beyond Technical Invention,’ pp. 149-158

Week 4 – Back to the Easel
Monday, September 10
Kalb: Chapter 3, pp. 65-90
Wednesday, September 12
Dumbadze and Hudson: Anne Ellegood, ‘Formalism Redefined,’ pp. 84-94

Week 5 – Appropriation, Copyright, and the Law
Monday, September 17
Engagement Assignment #2 – see BlackBoard
Wednesday, September 19
Engagement Assignment #2 – see BlackBoard

Week 6 – Into the Streets
Monday, September 24
Kalb: Chapter 4, pp. 91-115
Wednesday, September 26
Dumbadze and Hudson: Liam Gillick and Maria Lind, ‘Participation,’ pp. 204-213
Research Paper Proposals due, September 26 (10%)

Week 7 – Commodities and Consumerism
Monday, October 1
Kalb: Chapter 5, pp. 116-139
Wednesday, October 3

Week 8
Monday, October 8
Review class
Wednesday, October 10
Mid-term Exam
Week 9 – Memory and History
Monday, October 15
Kalb: Chapter 6, pp. 140-167
Wednesday, October 17
Dumbadze and Hudson: Juliane Rebentisch, ‘Participation in Art: 10 Theses,’ pp. 267-276

Week 10 – Culture, Body, Self
Monday, October 22
Kalb: Chapter 7, pp. 168-176
Wednesday, October 24
Kalb: Chapter 7 continued, pp. 177-192

Week 11 – Eastward Expansion: Contemporary Art in Russia and China
Monday, October 29
Kalb: Chapter 8, pp. 193-217
Wednesday, October 31

Week 12 – Engaging the Global Present
Monday, November 5
Kalb: Chapter 9, pp. 218-234
Wednesday, November 7
Dumbadze and Hudson: Terry Smith, “Our” Contemporaneity,’ pp. 17-27

Week 13 – New Metaphors and New Narratives
Monday, November 12
Kalb: Chapter 10, pp. 250-279
Wednesday, November 14
Dumbadze and Hudson: Julian Stallabrass, ‘Elite Art in an Age of Populism,’ pp. 39-49

Week 14 – The Art of Contemporary Experience
Monday, November 19
Kalb: Chapter 11, pp. 280-311
Wednesday, November 21
Dumbadze and Hudson: Carrie Lambert-Beaty, ‘The Academic Condition of Contemporary Art,’ pp. 457-466

Week 15 – Contemporary Video Art
Monday, November 26
Video Screening
Wednesday, November 28
Discussion and response

Week 16 – 'Open call’
Monday, December 3

Research Papers due (Monday, December 3): 20%
COURSE POLICIES

SUBMISSION OF WORK

Written assignments may be submitted via e-mail. Hand-written documents 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: 5% for the first 24 hours following a deadline, 10% for each 24 hours thereafter. After five 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.

GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, 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.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.
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.
- Attending critiques are mandatory.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 9, 2018 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
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).