EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

VISUAL ARTS

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Visual Art Art History

FA / VISA 1000 3.0 SECTION B
CRITICAL ISSUES IN THE STUDIO
FALL 2018 / WINTER 2019

Last Modified Date: 09/11/2018

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces students to visual, conceptual and theoretical language as it relates to studio practice. Ideas are examined through various disciplines from different points of view. Degree requirement for Visual Arts BFA Honours program. Open to non-majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knight, Katherine M</td>
<td>Sec. B / BLEN / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kknight@yorku.ca">kknight@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL FEATURES

Critical Issues introduces students to visual, conceptual and theoretical language as it relates to studio practice. Ideas are examined through various disciplines from different points of view. Degree requirement for Visual Arts BFA Hons program. Open to non-majors.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation in the theory and practice of contemporary art through core concepts related to 2 D, 3 D, lens and time based approaches to art making. Formal elements such as line, colour, form, space, perspective, narrative, sequence and time are studied through readings and in examples of contemporary art. Students workshop and apply methodologies of creative thinking. Students gain awareness of contemporary artists and their art projects.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and describe current approaches to contemporary art making
2. Understand and apply terms and concepts from contemporary art practice
3. Recognize and apply methods of creative thinking
4. Acquire transferable skills in research methodology such as: zotero, spark
5. Practice reading and writing skills and apply both personal and analytical writing style
6. Recognize a community of peers within the visual arts program and apply networking skills

Organization of The Course

This course is a blended format comprised of a 1.5 hour lecture, 1 hour tutorial, 1.5 hour online work. The 1.5 hr lecture is a mix of face to face lectures in ACW 206 and online lectures. Participation in all components is required. A textbook, available as an e-text or hard copy is required and available through the York Book Store. All other materials for this course are on the course moodle site.

Lecture

The lecture brings all participants together. The lecture reviews the main ideas covered in the assigned readings, introduces strategies for success in your studio work, presents case studies of contemporary art and
artists, and introduces the weekly online material that you must complete independently. Material presented in the lecture is further developed, put into practice and tested through the weekly online activities. To succeed in this course you must attend the lecture, tutorials and participate in the online component. Quizzes will be held during the lecture period.

**Tutorial**

After each lecture you meet in a smaller group with a tutorial leader. The tutorial is an important forum for discussion and group work. The tutorial leader marks all your assignments and reviews your weekly activities. Attendance in tutorials is marked.

**Online classroom**

A brief overview of the online classroom will be given at the first lecture. At any point you may review the course management software by clicking on the Guide link. The online classroom is structured in 4 parts titled:

1. **READ** - this section contains readings from the textbook and other source Some of the textbook readings also link to online exercises or demonstrations of the key concepts. Complete the required reading every week.
2. **WATCH** - this section links to multimedia resource Some of these are embedded in moodle or linked to You Tube, vimeo and web pages. Others are streamed online through the York University library On Demand e resources. Watch this material before proceeding to the next component.
3. **REFLECT** - this section asks you to review and think about the content from the lecture and readings by completing a weekly journal. You can also find this journal on your course main page under "resources." Each journal entry must be completed in the week assigned.
4. **CREATE** - this section puts knowledge into practice through a creative exercise that you document and add to your GALLERY. You will build your gallery through the semester. You can also find this gallery on your course main page under "resources." Each create entry must be completed in the week assigned. It is shared with colleagues during your tutorial.

The online classroom activities must be completed on a weekly basis. To ensure your weekly participation, the activities open and close within a specific timeline. You will not have access to the marked activities if you miss the deadline. Follow and complete the online classroom in order.

**Announcements**

The Announcements area changes weekly. It is where you will find updates and information about the class. Check this area weekly. You will receive regular emails from the announcements page. If you don’t receive emails, it means your email address is incorrect. Ensure you have listed a correct email that you check regularly.

**Assignments**

The assignments area is where you find detailed instructions on your projects. It is also where you upload your completed assignments.

**Media Resources and Artist Profiles**

This area houses all the media clips we will watch this semester. They are also linked to your weekly online classroom.

Our textbook, VISA1000, is a condensed version with 3 selected chapters from "Launching the Imagination," by Mary Stewart.

The easiest method is to purchase it through a barcode from the York U bookstore. See your link on moodle. Or you can purchase online by following these simple steps:

1. Go to [https://create.mheducation.com/shop/](https://create.mheducation.com/shop/)
3. Add the book to your cart and pay using a credit card or access code. Notes for purchasing online:
   - Purchasing a book with an access code - PDF
   - Purchasing a book using a credit card - PDF
4. Bibliography


5. Grading and Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment tasks</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning outcomes addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Journals Week 1-11</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>LO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Journal Selects</td>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>LO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Essay</td>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>LO 1, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Gallery 1</td>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>LO 2, 3, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Gallery 2</td>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>LO 2, 3, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Quizzes</td>
<td>POP UP</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>LO 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Attendance</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>LO 3, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Information on York grading schemes can be found at: https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw17

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ - 7, C+ = 5, etc.)

A+ 90-100 Rare and exceptional work
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 80-89</td>
<td>Excellent (ability to formulate &amp; communicate ideas with clarity and originality)</td>
<td>B+ 75-79</td>
<td>Very good work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 70-74</td>
<td>Good work (thorough understanding and firm grasp of materials and skills)</td>
<td>C+ 65-69</td>
<td>Competent work (sufficient skills to permit the student to continue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 60-64</td>
<td>Some understanding and control (not permitted to continue)</td>
<td>D+ 55-59</td>
<td>Passable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 50-54</td>
<td>Poor work (demonstrates little comprehension)</td>
<td>E 31-49</td>
<td>Inadequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 0-30</td>
<td>Inadequate</td>
<td></td>
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Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design section of the Undergraduate Calendar:

http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/programs/visual_arts.htm

6. **Assignments. Please refer to moodle for all your assignments. If any revisions are made they will be announced and posted on moodle. All assignments are submitted online.**

**Journals 7% - Due weekly at 10AM**

The Journal is a weekly reflection, assigned in the REFLECT component of your ONLINE CLASSROOM. Each week a new question is asked and you respond. Write 100 words each week. There are no right or wrong answers. This is a personal entry that reflects your point of view. This type of writing is called descriptive and demonstrates that you listened and thought about what we have read, watched and covered in lecture and through your online classroom. Think of this journal as a personal log that reflects on the content of this course. It is not an essay with a beginning, middle and end. Rather it is a journal entry that reflects your experience in this course. Journal entries must be completed weekly. One mark is assigned per complete journal. O for incomplete. Journal entries are time specific and must be completed by 10 am each Thursday. You have one week to complete each journal.

**Journal Selects 15% - Due Nov 29 at 10AM**

Select 4 journal entries that best demonstrate your descriptive writing and reflective abilities. Revise for clarity and completeness. Expand each journal entry to 250 words for a total length of 1000 words double spaced. Format into one document. Title the document, “Journal Selects. Include your name, student number, tutorial number, tutorial leader. Sub title each journal according to its number and title. Submit for marking.

**Essay 20% - Due Oct 25 at 10AM**

This assignment requires you to watch the 19 minute TEDx talk by Jessica Backus's titled, "Why Don't you get Contemporary Art," and complete the following 3 part assignment complied in a word document or PDF and submitted online.

**PART 1 NOTES**

Create one page of point form notes while listening to the lecture. Capture ideas that interest you. Take note of points she makes. Title your page of notes, "Notes on Jessica Backus's TEDx titled, "Why Don't you get Contemporary Art.""

**PART 2 500 WORD ESSAY**

Backus describes five strategies that motivate artists. Choose one strategy and one artist from the list provided. Write a 500 word essay that includes the following components:
1. An introductory paragraph stating the strategy and artist you have chosen. Reflect on how and why you choose them.
2. A paragraph of biographical information. Tell us where the artist is based. Do they exhibit and where?
3. A paragraph describing an artwork or project by the artist. When you describe the artwork be specific. Describe the art form the artist works in or the type of materials used or describe a work in manner that allows a reader to visualize the work.
4. A paragraph reflecting your opinion on how the artist corresponds to the stated strategy.
5. A closing paragraph that summarizes several points and brings your discussion to a close.

PART 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Create a bibliography of 4 entries in APA or MLA style that demonstrates you searched and used the Art and Architecture research Guide. Include 2 books or catalogues, 1 article, 1 web entry.

**Goals**
- Using the York Library Research Guide- Art, Architecture and Design
- Creating a bibliography
- Implementing research methods
- Summation writing on contemporary art

**Gallery 1- Week 1-5- 20%- Due Oct 18 at 10AM**
Throughout the semester you will be building an inventory of images related to the course content. You will add images every week. Your Gallery shows your work in progress by demonstrating that you have completed the weekly CREATE challenges in your online classroom.

Add a 50 word description to each of your gallery submissions. Use the 50 words to reflect on the image you created. This descriptive writing can include thoughts on your process, your formal tools and approaches, attributes that surprised you or a simple description of what the viewer sees.

**Gallery 2- Week 6-11- 20%-Due Nov 22 at 10AM**
Follow the guidelines for Gallery 1.

**Quizzes 10% POP UP**

Online quizzes related to the textbook readings and lecture material will be completed during lecture or tutorials.

Chapter 2 Colour Chapter 4 Perspective Chapter 8 Creating Meaning Online Classroom material AGYU Gallery Visit

**Attendance 8%** is taken in tutorial. Attendance in lecture is reflected in quizzes, journals and galleries.

**7. Assignment Submission and Lateness Penalties**

Participation in the online activities must be completed in the week they are assigned.

Other assignments are due according to the posted dates and must be posted according to the directions listed in the assignment.
Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one- half letter grade (1 grade point) per day that the assignment is late. The on-line written responses to posted questions will receive a zero grade if not done on time.

Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Director/Tutorial Leader, but will require supporting documentation such as a doctor’s letter.

Unless otherwise noted, grades will be posted in the online grade book no later than 7 days following the due date of assignment.

The university maintains a strict academic integrity policy. Please follow this link to read the policy. Missed Quizzes and Deadlines: Students with a documented reason for missing a course quiz or project deadline, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

8. Withdrawal Deadlines

FA/VISA 1000 is a one-semester course. Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 9, 2018.

9. Detailed Weekly Schedule

The following table is a point form summary of weekly activities. It is subject to change. It is very important that you follow the weekly prompts in your online classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read</th>
<th>Watch</th>
<th>Reflect/Journal</th>
<th>Create/Gallery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6 Week 1</td>
<td>Intro Advice for artists. Line/Point</td>
<td>Choosing Advice for young artists</td>
<td>Paraphrase advice for artist.</td>
<td>5 points on line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13 Week 2</td>
<td>What is Art? Assign #1 Quiz 1</td>
<td>Sol Lewitt</td>
<td>Kimsooja, Martin Creed Contemporary conceptual</td>
<td>Comment on Sol Lewitt’s sentence 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 20 Week 3</td>
<td>AGVU guest</td>
<td>Read AGVU statement on Braided Roots</td>
<td>Betsabee Romero.</td>
<td>Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Text/Read</td>
<td>Due Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Sept 27    | 4     | **Why DO IT!**  
Exhibit DO IT!  
Hans Ulrich Obrist:  
art of curation |            | Gallery, curation and DO IT!                                       |
| Oct 4      | 5     | **Expanded field**  
Sculpture in **DO IT!**  
Andy Goldsworthy |            | Andy Goldsworthy  
Make a shape |
| Oct 11     |       | **FALL BREAK**                                                   |           |               |
| Oct 18     | 6     | **Value, light**  
Spring Hurlbut  
**DUE**  
Gallery 1 |            | Discuss Hurlbut’s The Final Sleep  
Value-contrast-light |
| Oct 25     | 7     | **Colour Essay**  
Koop, Josef Albers  
**DUE**  
Chapter 2 on Colour |            | Koop & Colour  
Monochromatic/Complementary colour schemes |
| Nov 1      | 8     | **Perspective Essay**  
Koop, Josef Albers  
**DUE**  
Chapter 4 on Perspective |            | Perspective  
Rectangle in Perspective |
| Nov 8      | 9     | **Meaning-PostModernism**  
Vik Muniz, Cindy Sherman  
**DUE**  
Chapter 8 Constructing Meaning |            | Post Modern strategies  
Context |
| Nov 15     | 10    | **Creativity & Problem Solving**  
John Cleese  
**DUE**  
Koop & Arnaud Maggs (CHANGE THIS)  
Creative Process |            | I AM |
| Nov 22     | 11    | **Artist Statements**  
Uta Barthes  
**DUE**  
Gallery 2 |            | Artist Statements  
No Gallery |
| Nov 29     | 12    | **Last class Art 21st cDUE**  
Journal Selects |            | No online  
No online |

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Important Information for Students**

**Academic Policies / Information**

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

*York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site*
The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

- Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more. [http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm)
- Manage my Academic record [http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/](http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/)
- "20% Rule"

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms. Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.