EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

ART HISTORY
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Visual Art Art History
FA / ARTH 1900 3.0 SECTION A
ART IN THE CITY
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 08/15/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces non-majors to art issues, practices, and research through an examination of the multifaceted art scene in Toronto. Explores the relationship between the cultural history of the city and the present art scene. Not open to Visual Arts Majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>El-Sheikh, Tammer</td>
<td>Sec. A / BLEN / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tammer75@yorku.ca">tammer75@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

**Course Director:** Tammer El-Sheikh tammer75@yorku.ca,
Office hours Wed. 10 – 12:30 or by appointment.
Art in the City provides a blended (online content, in-person tutorials) introduction to art issues, systems, and research for non-visual art majors. The course considers Toronto as a microcosm of the art world through careful study of local art exhibitions, public installations, historical sites, and art events. Themes include the role of artist-run centres, museums, public art projects, architecture, arts festivals, and guerrilla art practices in the complex and multicultural urban art scene. Students are introduced to contemporary art practices and research methods through weekly readings, webcast lectures, online films, podcast walking tours, and gallery visits. Weekly topics and assignments approach learning as a cumulative act, beginning with a focus on analytical approaches to contemporary art, and expanding into an examination on how meaning is derived from institutional context, and finally on how artists, curators and writers seek to challenge the structure of traditional exhibitions.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

**Topics and Concepts - Art in the City Schedule (note that dates will vary based on your tutorial section):**

**Week 1 – Introduction and Overview**
Lecture: Introduction to course and Moodle page (Melanie Wilmink) Readings: 1) Syllabus; 2) Academic Integrity Website.
Due by Week 2 Tutorial: Participation Module.

**Week 2 - Vocabulary and Formal Analysis**
Lecture: AGO Walking Tour (Melanie Wilmink).
3) Formal Analysis and Vocabulary Infosheet. Field Trip: Go to the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Due by Week 2 Tutorial: 1) Participation Module

Week 3 – **What is Contemporary Art?**


Due by Week 3 Tutorial: 1) Participation Module, 2) Formal analysis assignment.

Field Trip: *Nuit Blanche* – Saturday Oct. 5, 2019, from sunrise to sunset (downtown, North York and Scarborough venues). ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND THIS EVENT UNLESS ACCOMMODATIONS ARE PRE-ARRANGED. Since Week 4 content may come after this event for some tutorials, it is recommended students review some of the online content for Week 4 before attending the festival. Because this discrepancy, the *Nuit Blanche* assignment is due for all tutorials on Friday October 11 by midnight.

Week 4 – **Art Festivals**

Lecture: 1) Curating Nuit Blanche (Jennifer Fisher); 2) ImagineNATIVE Film Festival (Melanie Wilmink interview with Daniel Northway-Frank).

Readings: 1) Sandals, “10 Thoughts on Why Nuit Blanche Has Triumphed—and Tanked—Across Canada”; 2) “Nuit Blanche Tips”.

Due by Week 4 Tutorial: Participation Module.

Due by October 11 at midnight: 1) Nuit Blanche Assignment.

Week 5 – **Multimedia Expressions**

Lecture: 1) Photography in Toronto (Sarah Parsons); 2) “Lesbian National Parks and Services: A Force of Nature” (Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan).

Readings: MoMA Learning, “Media and Performance Art”

Due by Week 5 Tutorial: Participation Module.

Reading Week (October 12 - 19)

Week 6 – **The Politics of Art Institutions**


Readings: Perry, “Democracy Has Bad Taste”.

Field Trip: Go to either the Art Gallery of York University, or the Power Plant Gallery, in preparation for your Midterm Assignment.

Due by Week 6 Tutorial: Participation Module.

Week 7 – **Reflection / Midterm Writing**


*Part A will be workshoped in tutorial, so attendance is required for assignment grade. Due by Week 7 Tutorial: 1) Participation Module, 2) Midterm Assignment: Part A.

**Week 8 – Artist Run Centres & Commercial Galleries**


Due by Week 8 Tutorial: Participation Module.

Week 9 – **Art & Representation: Gender Case Studies** Lecture: Art and Representation (Stacy Denton)

Readings: Berger, “Chapter 3” *Ways of Seeing*.

Due by Week 9 Tutorial: 1) Participation Module; 2) Midterm Assignment Part B.

**Week 10 – Indigenous Canadian Art**
Lecture: Indigenous Perspectives on Art (Vanessa Dion Fletcher). Readings: 1) Hill, “10 Indigenous Artworks that Changes How We Imagine Ourselves”; 2) Loft, “Reflections on 20 Years of Aboriginal Art”.

Due by Week 10 Tutorial: Participation Module.

Week 11 – Art and Space:

Lecture: Public Art (Melanie Wilmink interview with Brandon Vickerd)

Due by Week 11 Tutorial: Participation Module.

Week 12 – The Microcosm of York University


Field Trip: Follow lecture walking tour around York’s Keele campus. Due by Week 12 Tutorial: Participation Module.
Field Trip: Go to two art galleries of your choice in preparation for your final paper. Final paper due December 13 at midnight.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

• Recognize traditions of art historical practice that influence readings of contemporary
• Question the structure of art institutions, and understand how politics shapes what is
• Participate in art analysis as an engaged viewer that can express and argue their views on art in both written and verbal

****Very Important Notes:
• Visiting art events and institutions in Toronto is essential to this course; it cannot be completed successfully without regular access to the city throughout the This includes visiting Nuit Blanche on the evening of Saturday October 5, 2019, and attending several art institutions for assignments.
• To undertake this course you will require weekly access to a computer or mobile device for lecture content, as well as attending in-person tutorial
• There are multiple tutorial sessions that have different meeting times and assignment deadlines. It is your responsibility to keep up with information and assignments posted on Moodle for this course. Please attend the session that you are registered

Tutorial Details:

The Course Director and TAs are available to help you throughout the term, but your TA will always be your first point of contact. You can contact us individually through the message system on Moodle. To make this process effective in such a large course it is important that you follow a few rules of etiquette. Every effort has been made to provide clear instructions regarding assignments and due dates, as well as dates when course work will be graded and/or returned. Before asking a question about administrative matters such as these, check both the course outline and assignment handouts. Take any remaining questions or concerns to your TA first. If your TA is unable to help you, then you are welcome to be in touch with the Course Director. Moodle has a system in place to return graded work, so please do not message the TAs or Course Director to find out your grade on an assignment or the course.

Course Content:

Lectures, Articles, and Supplementary Material are all available electronically, via Moodle. Visits to Art Galleries and Events (listed on syllabus).

Because much of the content for this course is self-directed, it is especially important for you to schedule your time carefully and stay up-to-date.
The approximated weekly workload for this course is as follows: Listening/watching lectures (1-1.5 hours)
Complete assigned readings (1-1.5 hours)
Weekly Moodle-based participation tasks (15 minutes) Attend tutorials (1 hour)
Over the course of the semester you will also have to schedule: Visit assigned galleries & events (3 hours each for 4 fieldtrips)
Complete assignments (AGO & Nuit Blanche 1-2 hours each, essays 5-10 hours each).

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Graded Assessment - Assignments and Evaluation (all assignments are due before your tutorial starts, unless otherwise specified):

Lecture Participation – 24% (weekly Moodle assignments).
Tutorial Participation – 12% (attendance and engagement).
Formal Analysis – 8% (Week 2: visit the AGO for the lecture, and complete a formal analysis for Week 3).
Nuit Blanche assignment – 10% (Week 4: attend Nuit Blanche, and analyze two works – Due Oct 11 by midnight).
Midterm Reflection – 21% (Weeks 7 & 9: Two-part analysis of an exhibition at either the AGYU or Power Plant Galleries)
Final Paper – 25% (A comparison of two institutions of your choice – Due Dec 13 by midnight)

SUBMITTING WORK: All tasks are to be submitted through Moodle. Please upload all files as PDF format.

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work well, and also on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the specified due dates. Late submissions will be accepted for the weekly participation tasks or Part A of the Midterm reflection. Late submissions to all other assignments will receive a half-grade deduction for every day after the due date.

All major assignments will be submitted using Turnitin. York provides the option to decline to use Turnitin, in which case you must contact the Course Director and TA immediately via email or through Moodle messages to arrange an alternative form of evaluation. If I do not hear from you by the third week of classes, I will assume that you will be submitting using Turnitin. A 20% penalty will be deducted from your essay for failing to inform the Course Director that you will not be using Turnitin by that date. Please note that Turnitin does not make decisions about the originality of your work, only raises questions for further investigation by your professor. For additional information about Turnitin, visit http://moodle.info.yorku.ca/student_resources/students/documentation/submitting_a_turnitin_assignment/

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.) Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation of a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90-100, A = 80-90, B+ = 75-79, etc.)


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 AMPD section of the Undergraduate Calendar.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:
Last day to drop course without receiving a final grade – November 8, 2019

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Citation is a key part of academic practice because it helps us to trace and acknowledge the work that has come before us. It allows readers to judge the quality of sources, and helps you to distinguish your ideas from that of established research. Please consult the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Faculty of Fine Arts’ Policy on Academic Honesty. Plagiarism and cheating are taken extremely seriously. If you have any questions or concerns about how to properly cite a source, your TA will be more than happy to clarify matters for you or you can visit: www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity

ACCESSIBILITY: York University is committed to making reasonable accommodations and adaptations in order to make equitable the educational experience of students with special needs (physical, medical, learning, and psychiatric disabilities). Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any concerns or require assistance with regard to class participation or the completion of your course assignments. Students in need of these services are also asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. Registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

Additional information is available through Counselling & Disability Services at www.cds.info.yorku.ca or from disability service providers:

- Personal Counselling and Learning Skills Services: N110 BCSS, 416-736-5297
- Mental Health Disability Services: N110 BCSS, 416-736-5350
- Learning Disability Services: W128 BCSS, 416-736-5383
- Physical, Sensory and Medical Disability Services: N108 Ross, 416-736-5140, TTY: 416-7365263
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing students can also contact psmds@yorku.ca
- Glendon students - Counselling & Disability Services, Glendon Site: Glendon Hall E103, 416487-6709

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE ACCOMMODATION: York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the TA within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the TA immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Bennett Student Services Centre or online at www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf

STUDENT CONDUCT: Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=82

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University