EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

VISUAL ARTS

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

FA / VISA 3022E3.0 SECTION A
CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO NATURE
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 08/22/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Investigates how painters are exploring contemporary approaches to nature and landscape through such questions as: How is nature represented in the media? How is the urban/nature opposition beginning to break down? How can cities be ecologically friendly? These questions are discussed through: an historical survey of how artists of the past viewed and represented nature, a class visit to the McMichael Collection, and an examination of how contemporary painters are re-engaging with nature. Students explore these themes through three, studio projects. Students are encouraged to draw and paint from nature instead of using only photographic sources. The projects are evaluated by extensive individual and class critiques. Prerequisite: three credits from FA/VISA 203x 3.00 series of courses.

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
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<td>Uyeda, Haley</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

This studio course will investigate how artists are exploring contemporary approaches to nature and landscape through Painting. In order to consider some contemporary approaches, we will first begin by looking at the rich history of nature and landscape Painting in Canada – with particular focus on the Group of Seven. Followed by a thorough exploration of what our contemporary experiences are of nature and how we can view contemporary artists tackling this ever-present topic of study. The three studio Painting projects will ask us to consider how we translate our experiences and study of nature into the form of Painting. Questions such as: What is the sublime and how did painters depict the sublime through nature; How is nature depicted as a force in opposition to ‘man’, to be tamed; How is nature gendered; What is our contemporary relationship with nature; How do we interact with nature; How is nature represented in the media;
Are our experiences of nature primarily mediated or viewed through various screens; How is the urban/nature opposition beginning to break down; How can cities be ecologically friendly; What is the relationship of the suburbs to nature; How is our relationship to nature changing?

Currently, painters are beginning to again look at nature as a complex and contested terrain. The three studio painting projects required for this course each focus on a different aspect of this contemporary experience.

Objective:
To introduce students to a range of historical and contemporary artists who are working from nature as source or object of study. We will approach this through a variety of lenses (philosophical, historical, theoretical, technical, social, societal etc.) to consider how artists are translating their experiences and study of nature and landscape into the form of Painting, and to develop our own approach to this through the three studio projects.

**GRADED ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation Summary:
- Project 1: Working In and From Nature 27%
- Project 2: Experiences of Nature 30%
- Project 3: Politics of Nature 28%
- Participation: 15%

Projects will be graded based on the following criteria:
1) Concept Creation: how well have you considered and researched the project and reflected critically upon its content? How have you planned for effective execution of your work? How strong is your concept?
2) Material decisions and technical execution: Have you chosen appropriate materials to fulfill the requirements of your proposal? Have you attempted to apply an adequate degree of technical skill to accomplish your work?
3) Final actualization and presentation: Does your work demonstrate that you have spent time on both the concept and execution of your work? Did you offer an adequate attempt at articulating your thoughts on the project during critique?

* Please keep in mind that grades for projects are based on the entire process leading up to the work, not just the final work that you present in critiques.

Final date to drop the course without receiving a grade: November 8, 2019

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests 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 or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.) (For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf)

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on
Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment.

Painting Studio Assignments are to be completed for the in-class critique date to be reviewed and graded by the Course Instructor.

Lateness Penalty: Painting projects received later than the due date will be penalized three grades per week, for example a painting with a grade of 23/30 will be dropped to 20/30. Please note: Paintings can only be submitted during class time not by appointment or otherwise.

Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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
• Access/Disability
• Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
• Religious Observance Accommodation
• Student Code of Conduct

http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf

Additional information:
• Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
• Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling
• Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

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

• Manage my Academic record 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

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