EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

ART HISTORY

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

FA / ARTH 1000 3.0 SECTION A
CRITICAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY ART
FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021

Last Modified Date: 07/31/2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces students to visual, conceptual and theoretical language operative in contemporary art and visual culture. Frameworks for understanding contemporary art are examined through theories of representation, spectatorship, production, media, ideology and aesthetics. Open to non-majors. Course credit exclusions: FA/VISA 1000 3.0 and FA/VISA 1040 3.0.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fisher, Jennifer</td>
<td>Sec. A / BLEN / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jefish@yorku.ca">jefish@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

This lecture/seminar course introduces students to thinking creatively and analytically about visual culture in the contemporary global context. Students are introduced to the ways in which meanings are produced through visual forms, including paintings, prints, photographs, film, television, video, advertisements, social media, news and science images. The course examines how images can be “read” as visual language, as well as how aesthetics, ideology, gender, race and class inform ways of seeing. Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-class interactions or activities on campus. The course will be taught synchronously, that is, that lectures and exams will correspond with the courses scheduled meeting times.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS


COURSE SCHEDULE

September 10
• Introduction: Introduction to the Course

September 17 DUE: SELFIE EXERCISE uploaded to Moodle
• Lecture: Images, Power, and Politics
• Reading: Sturken & Cartwright, Chapter 1: pp. 13-49.
September 24
- Lecture: Viewers Make Meaning

October 1 DUE: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT uploaded to Moodle - Essay Questions from Ch. 1 and Image Analysis
- Lecture: Modernity: Spectatorship, The Gaze, and Power

October 8
- Lecture: Realism and Perspective: From Renaissance Painting to Digital Media
- Reading: Sturken & Cartwright, Chapter 4: pp. 139-177.

October 15 - Fall Reading Week

October 22
- Lecture: Visual Technologies, Reproduction, and the Copy

October 29 MIDTERM EXAM

November 5
- Lecture: Media in Everyday Life
- Reading: Sturken & Cartwright, Chapter 6: pp. 219-256.

November 12
- Lecture: Brand Culture: The Images and Spaces of Consumption
- Reading: Sturken & Cartwright, Chapter 7, pp. 257-299.

November 19 DUE: GALLERY ASSIGNMENT uploaded to Moodle
Lecture: Postmodernism: Irony, Parody, and Pastiche

November 26 • Lecture: Scientific Looking, Looking at Science

December 3 - FINAL EXAM

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

To gain familiarity with the critical terms and concepts of art history and visual cultural studies
To understand the production of meaning in visual communication especially in art, popular culture, media and design
To develop awareness of key issues informing contemporary art history and media studies
To foster a theoretically informed analysis of art and visual media
GRADED ASSESSMENT

GRADING AND EVALUATION:
Participation 25% [engagement 10%; group presentation 5%; individual presentation 10%]
Selfie Exercise 10% - September 17
Written Assignment 15% - October 1
Midterm Exam 20% - October 29
Gallery Assignment 10% - November 19
Final Exam 20% - December 3

The last day to drop this course without receiving a grade is November 6, 2020.
Participation: is based on attendance at lectures, active involvement in on-line classroom discussions, groups and presentations; timely and appropriate submission of assignment and evident effort in academic and learning skills.
Selfie Exercise: Drawing from Sturken & Cartwright’s introduction, construct a selfie of yourself and post it on Moodle beside your name. This image will represent you to the rest of the class. Carefully consider the self-fashioning involved in this photograph including facial expression, framing, clothing, accessories, the direction of your gaze, distance from the lens, as well as the technical aspects of lighting, camera angle, colour, use of filter, and so on.
Writing Assignment: will cover essay questions, terms and images from Chapter 1 Lecture given on September 17.
Midterm Exam: will cover all content from the first half of the course (Chapters 1-5), including definitions, distinctions, essay questions, image identifications and comparisons, and visual analyses. The exam will be “open book” and designed to encourage analysis and synthesis. It will be written during class time.
Gallery Assignment: Sturken and Cartwright note in Chapter 7 note that brands are tied to prestige and selffulfillment. Brands are mass produced goods that can enact the Marxist notion of “commodity fetishism,” which means that they eradicate the labor that made them and become invested with different meanings, such as mystery, value, being cool, street cred and so on. For example, the brand of your running shoes can become a fetish of power. Take a photograph documenting how brand culture appears in contemporary everyday life.
Final Exam: will cover all content from the second half of the course (Chapters 6-9), including definitions, distinctions, essay questions, image identifications and comparisons, and visual analysis. The exam will be “open book” and designed to encourage analysis and synthesis. It will be written during class time.
Late Assignments: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Assignments should be submitted on-line to Moodle by midnight on the day of the deadline. Extensions will be granted for medical emergencies or other extreme circumstances if the instructor is notified before the assignment is due. Without an approved extension, you mark will decrease by 5% for each day the assignment is late.
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 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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Academic Honesty and Integrity

York students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. Codes of Academic Honesty are taken very seriously and violations are treated severely, including failing the course, being suspended from the university or withholding a degree, diploma or certificate. It is expected that all your work be produced by you, that you are not resubmitting work from other classes, and that you acknowledge sources that informed your thinking appropriately.

https://www.library.yorku.ca/web/research-learn/academic-integrity/

Writing Resources: Please consult the following general resources on theoretical writing and visual analysis keeping in mind the specific focus of the assignment

Writing Center support and other services http://writing.laps.yorku.ca/resources/
Spark Student Paper and Academic Research Tool Kit https://spark.library.yorku.ca/
Citation Style Guides and Writers' Manuals http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/ResearchAndInstruction/StyleManuals/
ESL Open Learning Centre http://www.yorku.ca/eslole/

Student Accessibility Services

York provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University. Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible. Please note that academic accommodation can only be provided after students have registered with the Student Accessibility Services Office. https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/

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 pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the course director immediately.

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. Just as it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, so, too, it the responsibility of students to cooperate in that endeavour. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=82.

Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provide 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

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/cocurricular 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 profiles.

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