EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

FA / VISA 4090D6.0 SECTION A
PAINTING: CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATIONS
FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021

Last Modified Date: 07/24/2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides a focused practicum for senior students that examines contemporary practices in painting. This course is structured around self-initiated projects under the direction of the Instructor. Through the coupling of theoretical and practical explorations, the course facilitates students' ability to develop their individual projects within the contemporary context of representational and abstract art, popular culture and mass media. Prerequisites: three credits from the 302x plus three credits from the FA/VISA 302x or FA/VISA 308x series of courses with a grade of B or better, third- or fourth-year standing.

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Janet A</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jjones@yorku.ca">jjones@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Method of Delivery:
Because of the current COVID pandemic, this studio course will be taught on-line during the Fall Term and possibly the Winter Term, primarily using Moodle and Zoom and will be augmented through email and Instagram. As a teacher who loves ‘being with students’ and in a studio classroom, this is not my preferred way of teaching. However, I hope as a group we can make this into an engaging and very communal experience. I have attempted to make this course as personal and individual as possible. I want to get to know you and what you do. I have rejected Moodle forms of teaching that distance you from me and you from each other. However, to really accomplish this you have to be available for Zoom meeting, talk to each other and participate. This is a collaborative effort!

Course Communication:
I will be using the Course Announcements on Moodle very frequently. These announcements are on our Moodle site but go, as well, directly to your email. Make sure that you check the Moodle site or your email often!

Expanded Course Description:
This is an advanced level painting course that is designed to further students understanding of contemporary painting & to introduce students to a professional practice in the visual arts. This will be accomplished primarily through studio practice: finding one’s ‘own voice’ through the completion of five major, inter-related painting projects that address contemporary trends in painting & secondarily, through an introduction to the contemporary artworld through exhibiting one’s work and planning class exhibitions. If necessary, these exhibitions will be virtual and take place on such social media sites as Instagram. As part of
this course, students will be asked to situate their practices within contemporary painting styles and ideas through a written Artist proposal and Final Artist Statement.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Four Themes: Five Inter-Related Painting Projects:
At the beginning of this course, each student will choose one of the following four themes:
Theme #1: Urban Environments
Theme #2: Contemporary Approaches to Nature / Environmentalism
Theme #3: Cross-Cultural Overlays / Family Background / Cultural Identity
Theme #4: The Body as a Contested Site

These themes are examined in the introductory classes and discussions relating to a particular theme continue throughout the year with the students who chose the theme. Your chosen theme may be explored using any art style you wish; from highly realistic to abstract. The painting materials, techniques and formal qualities you choose need to be carefully considered in relation to your concept or ideas. All of your five required paintings for the year will be on your chosen theme and your style and material choices should remain fairly consistent. Hopefully there will be some evolution in your work, however there should be no sudden ‘breaks’.

Introductory Power Point Presentation:
This Power Point Presentation is crucial to understanding the four themes. It is divided into the four themes and will contain images by key artists for each theme as well as related interviews, readings etc. and additional artists. It will be available on the Moodle site. We will be going over it in depth during the second class. The information on this PP will help you immensely in choosing your them and writing both your Artist Proposal and your Final Artist Statement.

Artist Proposal: Fall Term
After the introductory class, each student is required to write a one-page Artist Proposal (300 words max.) for the five required thematically / stylistically related works; three to be completed in the Fall Term and two in the Winter term that relate to her/his chosen theme. This very concise statement should include: the general theme (one of the four noted above) and the specifics of the theme: the style you will be working in, for example will your work be highly realistic or abstract, expressionistic or hard-edged; the materials to be used and the name of at least one artist from your chosen theme on the course’s Power Point Presentation that you think relates most to your work.

Final Artist Statement: Winter Term
This one-page Artist Statement (max. 300 words) sums up your studio work for the year. By the end of this Course you should be able to write a concise statement that describes your work; style, material usage, and the ideas behind your work. As well, you need to include how your work relates to contemporary painting and ideas through referencing the course readings, artist interviews, and the artists noted within your theme.

Participation:
The class will be divided into four groups. Each group will be composed of the students who have chosen the same theme. It is expected that you will get to know the members of your Thematic Group well. Please begin by exchanging email addresses. As you will all be working on the same theme you should be able to make suggestions on each other’s work and form a close-knit ‘virtual community’.

Zoom Meetings:
Attend Zoom meetings!! They are all scheduled during your class time:
Thursday, 9:30- 1:30. There will be two separate zoom meetings during most class times each of approximately 1 ½ hours long. Each Zoom meeting will be composed of two of the Thematic Groups. The time of your zoom meeting will depend on which group you are in. Please make sure that you reserve Thursday morning for this class as you would have to if you were attending class in person!
If you are not able to attend your scheduled zoom meeting, please email me the day before the class.

Media Galleries:
You will be expected to post images of your initial ‘sketches’, ideas, work in progress and your final paintings on our Media Galleries on Moodle. Please take good photos of your paintings on your cell phones. Save as jpegs and post. There will be a separate Media Gallery for each of the four thematic groups. Part of your participation grade is to help each other by commenting and critiquing each other’s work. If you are unsure of something in your painting, ASK the class? How much you participate in the Media Galleries is part of your participation grade.

Instagram:
Set-up an ‘Art’ Instagram account and start to follow one another in your Group. Post your paintings and sketches as your work progresses, comment on each others work. I am on Instagram all of the time we can follow each other! Hashtag me.

Critiques:
During the class critiques, conducted during the Fall Term on Zoom students are expected to clearly present her/his work to their Thematic Group and explain the conceptual ideas behind his/her work and its relationship to contemporary art. For these critique sessions we may do four separate Zoom meetings. This will depend on how many students chose each group.

Exhibitions:
Traditionally this class has a jam-packed exhibition schedule during the Winter Term, with four exhibitions organized and installed by designated groups from the class. I am just not sure whether or not this will be possible. If we cannot do ‘in person’ events we will be creating virtual exhibitions. Participation in organizing either the ‘in person’ or the virtual events is part of your participation grade.

Bibliography:
Readings & Artist Interviews on YouTube
There will be many links to readings, additional artists and artist interviews on both the Power Point Presentation and on the Class Weekly Schedules. See your chosen Theme on the Power Point Presentation to find all of these resources.

Additional readings on contemporary painting, critical ideas and looking at the work of contemporary painters that are of particular relevance to your project, are also assigned.

Note: These readings, additional artists that have been recommended and artist interviews will be important references when writing your Artist Proposal but most importantly, when you write your Final Artist Statement.

General Bibliography of Books:
The following are books that will be referenced during this course. They are pertinent both to a general understanding of contemporary visual art, in particular painting, and the themes we will be addressing this year.

-Hopman, Laura. The Forever Now; Contemporary Painting in an Atemporal World. Published in conjunction with an exhibition at MOMA, NY. 2014.
LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

The purpose of this course is to further students' painting abilities and the understanding both of contemporary painting and the conceptual ideas related to her/his chosen theme; primarily through studio projects, and secondarily through discussion, critiques and the viewing of works by contemporary painters. As this is an advanced level class, the main objective of this course is to give students the tools to develop their own practices as ‘young’ artists.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Evaluation:
Fall Term:
-One Page Artist Proposal – 10%
-Three thematically linked paintings that relate to the chosen theme:
Total 30%
Painting #1: 10%
It is expected that this painting will be exploratory and tentative. It is a time for you to experiment with what will work in terms of materials & techniques. You may wish to try several small paintings to figure out your ‘direction’. Your Artist Proposal and these ‘experiments’ should be your guide throughout the rest of the course.
Painting #2 & #3
Each 10% Total: 20%
Due: Final Critique before the Holiday Break – (Last two Fall Session classes.)

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Winter Term:
-Painting #4 & 5
Two thematically linked paintings that relate to the same chosen theme:
Each 15% Total: 30%
These are major projects. Your theme/style should be fully developed by this point.
These are each due on the dates of the Class Critiques. See Winter Term schedule that will be distributed the first class of the Winter Term.
-One Page Artist Statement – 10%
-Participation: Fall and Winter Terms: 20%
TOTAL 100%

Please Note:
The last day to drop this course without receiving a grade is February 5th, 2021.
Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Department or Faculty grades distribution profiles.
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 this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Faculty of Fine Arts section of the
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 class critique date to be reviewed and graded by the Course Director.

Lateness Penalty: Paintings are to be completed for the critiques. Exceptions for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents)
http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

Please note that this information is subject to periodic update. For the most current information, please go to the CCAS webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents):
http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

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