

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ART

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**ART HISTORY (ARHI) 209.01**  
**Art: World War II to the Present**  
**Fall 2016**

Lecture: Wed 1800 – 2045; Room AB 672

**Instructor:** *Dick Aaverns*  
**Office Location:** *AB 667*  
**Office Phone:** *403 220 5216*  
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**Web Page:** *N/A*  
**Office Hours:** *Mon & Wed 12.30-1.30pm*

**Course Description**

A chronological examination of Western art in relation to significant historical and cultural events from WW II to the present.

**Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites**

Admission to the Visual Studies or Art History major programs.

**Objectives of the Course**

Upon successful course completion, students will have:

- 1 been introduced to significant examples of visual arts including Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, Pop Art, Conceptual Art, performative practices, Relational Aesthetics, lens-based media, indigenous practices, and public art.
- 2 gained an understanding of historical contexts, related discourses and socio-political aspects relevant to works studied including WWII, The Cold War, civil rights, gender, 1960s counterculture, globalization, neo-liberalism, post-colonialism, 9/11 and post "War on Terror."
- 3 gained an understanding of the role(s) of "an" art object, subject, concept, content, form and process, and semiotic analysis.
- 4 become conversant in aspects of Modernity, Modernism, Postmodernity & Postmodernism.
- 5 gained a context for future investigations into the humanities, e.g., to understand societal roles of the liberal arts, and to support one's research interests, studio practice, and potential career path.
- 6 been introduced to critical methods and terms used in art historical literature and art criticism to support further study in the humanities, analysis of art, and to identify emergent ideologies.
- 7 developed skills in critical thinking, research, and enquiry into art via observation, writing and oral articulation.

Assigned readings will be made available via a course pack. Students are required to complete all assigned readings and expected to arrive at class with an annotated copy of the text, notes that address the content of the reading, and any prescribed participation question/answer(s).

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

### **Participation**

**10%**

Students will be required to provide ten short written submissions spread throughout the semester, comprising questions/answers relating to class readings and course activities; the written submissions are due at the start of each class relating to the reading in question. Each submission will be worth one percent. These questions/answers allow students to demonstrate an understanding of readings and related activities, and enable productive participation in the class. Questions will be set each week by the instructor, or students may instead be required to structure a commentary or propose their own question on a particular course component. The awarding of these marks is based on participating in the process by handing in each typed submission at the start of the respective class.

### **In class Art Vocabulary test**

**5%**

Wk 4 – Oct 5. This short test is based on key art terms as covered in the first three weeks of class. Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, and instructor presentations.

### **Primary Research Essay**

**25%**

Due at the start of class Wk 7 – Oct 26. Students will write a 500 word paper based on the direct observation of a post 1945 work of art. The specific analytical approach will be determined and disseminated on Sept 28, in writing, by the instructor

### **In-class Modernism Postmodernism test**

**10%**

Wk 8 – Nov 2. This test will be based on articulating the broad parameters and constructs for Modernity, Modernism, Postmodernity and Postmodernism. Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, instructor presentations and homework.

### **Written Response (Nov 16 – 23)**

**20%**

Wk 10/11 – Nov 16-23. A written response to the Mavlian reading will be set on Wk 10/Nov 16 (take-home 500-750 words, 15%) and brought to class Wk 11/Nov 23. The reading and papers will be discussed in class.

There will also be a short test Wk 11/Nov 23 (5%), covering topics surrounding identity politics and criticality, relating primarily to the Mavlian reading, with results given immediately afterward. Students will then edit their paper and submit at the end of class. Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, instructor presentations and homework.

### **Final Paper and Test**

**30%**

Wk 13 – Dec 7. A take-home paper (750-1,000 words, 20%) will be issued Wk 12/Nov 30, due last class, Dec 7. (No extensions). Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, instructor presentations and homework.

A final test will occur in class (Dec 7; 10%). Content will include multiple choice/true-false questions, and short answer questions, based on material covered in class readings, instructor presentations and homework.

**N.B.** Assignments must be submitted as hard copies unless otherwise stated in assignment handouts.

### **Writing**

The Primary Research Essay, In-class Written Response, and Final Paper will all require writing. Grading will be based primarily on the content of answers. Readability, comprehension, spelling and

syntax will form part of the grade, particularly in the Primary Research Essay.

Students with learning difficulties or adaptive software needs should consult the instructor and/or ensure they have an Academic Accommodation Agreement.

Students are also encouraged to avail themselves of the writing support services of the U of C TFDL, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. This includes drop-in services, appointments, online assistance, workshops and more.

[https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing\\_support/overview](https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview)

To pass the course students must complete: A) Primary Research Essay; B) In-class Written Response; and C) Final Paper and test, and pass at least two of these elements (A+B, B+C, or A+C). Additionally students must pass at least two of the remaining graded components (tests and/or participation).

### **Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO**

**Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of or any relevant documentation regarding each submitted assignment.**

Please hand in your assignments as hard copies directly to your instructor, in class, on the due date. If this is not possible, you can use the drop box outside of AB 608. Assignments that are put into the drop box will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

### **Late Assignment Policy**

- All assignments must be handed in on time. Extensions (with the exception of the final paper) may be granted in extenuating circumstances, e.g., documented illness, family emergency, or similar, but this must be both approved in advance by the instructor, and documented in writing.
- Late assignments (without an extension) incur penalties of one grade per day, excluding weekends and holidays, for a maximum of two weeks.
- After ten working days, assignments will not be accepted and a failing grade may be assigned for the course.

### **Additional Information**

This course is structured to impart not just key aspects of art since WW II but also to foster writing and critical thinking. Regular attendance and engagement is key. Any work submitted must have your name and student number clearly printed. Pages should be numbered and be held with a paper clip or staples: no plastic covers or folders please! And remember, all assignments must be completed on time (see Late Assignment Policy).

When taking part in field trips please show respect and gratitude to members of the public and those persons involved in the activities. Also, note that students will be responsible for their own field trip transportation and for any associated fees.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and friendly manner, offering encouragement and respect to peers during class activities. Class discussions, particularly relating to student presentations, require thoughtful engagement.

Good luck with your studies and enjoy the class. Remember I'm available by office hours and appointment and am here to help you succeed to the best of your potential and input.

### **Course Activities**

The following schedule provides a narrative structure for the course, including key dates and details of fieldwork. Weekly homework comprises absorbing the readings listed for the following week's class and coming the next week prepared with questions and ready for discussion. E.g., homework for week 1 is to read Hopkins, "The Politics of Modernism," as will be covered in Week 2. Specific guidelines, dates and grading criteria for each assignment will be provided on an ongoing basis.

Please note this schedule may vary to accommodate course flexibility, field trips and University/Department events, but total course contact time will remain unchanged.

### **Proposed Fieldwork/Special Events**

Wed Oct 19                      Gallery field trip: Nickle Arts Galleries

### **Week/Date                      Topics and Readings**

Wk 1 (Sept 14)                **Forming the Object of Art: Subjects, Concepts, Process, Content...**  
 Course Intro & Guideline, Instructor Presentation  
 Barrett, "Describing Art" (p. 22-25)

Wk 2 (Sept 21)                **Locating Territories: Modernity and Modernism**  
 Barrett, "Describing Art" (p. 22-25)  
 Hopkins, "The Politics of Modernism" (p. 4-34)

Wk 3 (Sept 28)                **Shifting Territories**  
**(Issue Primary Research Essay)**  
 Pop Art, Fluxus ....

Wk 4 (Oct 5)                    **Minimalism & High Modernism**  
**(In-class Art Vocabulary test – 5% of course)**  
 Archer *Art Since 1960*, (p. 44 – 60)

Wk 5 (Oct 12)                **A historiography of Installation Art**  
 Archer, "Architecture, Media, Museum, Site" (p.156-7, 80-81, 124-5, 33-5)

Wk 6 (Oct 19)                **Field Trip**  
 Class will meet at the Nickle Gallery entrance in TFDL: details to be confirmed.

Wk 7 (Oct 26)                **Conceptualizing Postmodernity and Postmodernism**  
**(Primary Research Essay Due – 25% of course)**  
 Godfrey, "The Crisis of Authority: Political and Institutional Contexts" 187 – 219.  
 Godfrey, "The Curious Case of Women Conceptual Artists." 280 - 298

Wk 8 (Nov 2)                    **Identity Politics: A Case Study**  
**(In-class test: Modernity, Modernism, Postmodernity, Postmodernism – 20% of course)**  
 Doyle, "Queer Wallpaper" (p. 343-353)

Wk 9 (Nov 9)                **Young British Artists & Reinvigorating Relationships: *Sensation(s)!***  
 Adams, "Thinking of You: An American's Growing, Imperfect..." (p. 35-9)

Wk 10 (Nov 16)                **What of Aesthetics and Publics? Public Art, Labour and Participation**  
 Bourriaud, "Relational Aesthetics" (p. 160-162, 41-42, 107-114)  
 Also referencing: Diack, "Sleepless Nights: Contemporary Art & the Culture of Performance" (p. 9-22)

Wk 11 (Nov 23)                **Lens-based Media: Photography and The Archive**

**(In-class discussion, written response and test addressing identity politics and criticality – 20% of course.**

Mavlian, "The Modern Archive of Conflict" (p. 206 – 217, 188-9, 190-1, 164-5, 74-5, 136-7)

Wk 12 (Nov 30)      **Global Dissemination: Art Biennials and a Canadian Context**  
Murray Whyte "The Mermaid's Cave..." (p. 78-85)  
[Jessica Bradley "International Exhibitions" (p. 87-94)]

Wk 13 (Dec 7)      **TEST (10% of course) AND SUBMIT FINAL PAPER (20% of course)**

Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments. Any work submitted must have your name and student number clearly printed. Pages should be numbered and be held with a paper clip or staples: no plastic covers or folders please!

Good luck with your studies and enjoy the class. Remember I'm available by office hours and appointment and am here to help you succeed to the best of your potential and input.

**Grading Method/Grading Scale:**

Percentag	Grad	G.P.V	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

**Studio Procedures**

Not applicable

**Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information**

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off and stored out of sight, except if a student or faculty member has compelling circumstances that warrant active cell phone use during class hours. These circumstances must be identified and approved by both faculty and students at the beginning of the semester or class.

Laptops may be used in class for note taking only. Surfing the web is restricted to project work as approved by the instructor. Wireless connections should be disabled at all other times.

Email: class time and office hours are the primary contact periods for instruction and questions. Email may be used for communicating unexpected absences, arranging appointments or general questions.

The instructor will endeavor to answer emails within a reasonable period of time (1-3 days) but students should not rely on immediate responses. Course instruction does not occur via email.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (S.A.S.); S.A.S. will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/)

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

### **Academic Standing**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

### **Deferral of Exams/Term work**

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information about deferring a final exam go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

For more information about the deferral term work go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>  
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15.pdf)

### **F.O.I.P.**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

### **Writing/Plagiarism**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support> or <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or

expulsion from the university. Visual art projects submitted for course credit must be produced by the student specifically for this class. Students must not submit projects if credit has or will be provided for it in another class. This includes re-worked assignments from previous or concurrent courses, unless permission is provided in writing by the instructor. Additionally, the student is asked to be mindful of using visual sources from the internet, ensuring that that material is not derived from any on-line or other available source, and that appropriate copyright permission is granted, when required.

For more information go to

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

### **Student Misconduct**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Student Union**

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

### **Student Ombudsman**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

### **Lockers**

The Art Building lockers are administered through the Student's Union's used bookstore, Bound and Copied. Lockers are rented on a first come, first served basis. Due to the shortage of lockers, and the high demand, students cannot hold more than one locker at a time. All of the details on renting a locker and your responsibilities can be found on the Locker Rental Agreement at

[https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/locker\\_rental\\_agreement\\_2010.pdf](https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/locker_rental_agreement_2010.pdf)

**Lockers for all sessions** can be rented through [my.ucalgary.ca](http://my.ucalgary.ca). Once you're in the Student Centre, click on **Other Academic Services** and choose **Locker Reservation**.

**Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.**

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

### **Models**

There will be no working from models in this class.

### **Portfolios and Assignments**

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

**Note - All unclaimed work will be disposed of.**

**Note - Studio spaces, bulletin boards and display areas need to be cleared 2 weeks after the last day of classes.**

### **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-5.html>  
or <https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/chreb>

### **Campus Security/Safewalk**

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

### **Emergency Evacuation**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Stop by SS102, call us at 220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca) or [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.