

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

Art History (ARHI) 511, Lecture 01
Seminar in the History of Art
Contemporary Social Art Practice
Winter 2013
Tuesday, 5:30-8pm; AB 658

Instructor: RICHard SMOLinski
Office Location: AB 647
Office Phone: Not available
E-Mail: rdsmolin@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: Not available
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm-2pm

Course Description

Topics to be announced. Possible topics include: The Art of Bernini, Cubism, The Group of Seven in Canada.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

Four full-course equivalents in Art History including 411, or consent of the Department.

Course Content

Paralleling our society's transition from a production-based economy towards a service-centred one, creative cultural engagement no longer focuses solely upon individual practitioners fashioning images and objects in isolation; increasingly, contemporary artists have forsaken the studio and the gallery to instigate social, experiential and ephemeral offerings in the midst of everyday life. While actively seeking out audiences beyond the traditional institutions of art has limited the profile of such practices, contemporary art history is beginning to examine a range of collaborative art endeavors known as "social art" practices. Under such circumstances an artist might self-identify as Gabriel Orozco has when he described his creative activities and responsibilities: "I am the head of a team, a coach, a producer, an organizer, a representative, a cheerleader, a host of the party, a captain of the boat...in short, an activist, an activator, an incubator." Within such a creative context, the audience's role is no less complex; no longer only a witness to the results of creative engagement, audiences are now often participatory collaborators in the production of their own creative experiences.

Contemporary Social Art Practice is a senior-level seminar class that explores a range of contemporary art practices that privilege audience participation and interactivity. Course discussions will examine the theoretical grounding of relational, dialogical and collaborative art practices, and promote research into contemporary art practices informed by such ideals. Moving from historical precedents found in Neo-Dadaism, Fluxus and 1960s Happenings, the seminar addresses the difficulty of analyzing ephemeral works that yield little or no durable objects for study. To understand

the local manifestations of this creative tendency, the class activities will also include research of The New Gallery archives at John Snow House. Whether occurring on the international biennial circuit, within on-line communities, or at Calgary's own *Imaginary Ordinary*, the seminar examines collaborative and collective pursuits that re-configure the audience as a potential co-producer of the work of art.

Objectives of the Course

The course encourages the student's advanced undergraduate research into art history, criticism and creative culture.

The seminar portion of the class will allow for discussion and debate of issues pertinent to the class subject and provide a forum for the student to gain practice and confidence in the verbal presentation of their ideas and findings. The written assignments advance the student's ability to define a research topic, gather evidence and develop a cogent argument.

Textbooks and Readings

Claire Bishop, *Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship*
 Nicholas Bourriaud, *Relational Aesthetics*
 Grant H. Kester, *Conversation Pieces: Community and Communication in Modern Art*

Assignments and Evaluation

Archival research report (1,500 words-due Feb. 28)	20%
In-class presentation	30%
Research Project (3,000 words-due April 16)	30%
Participation	20%

(Participation evaluation requires active engagement in all seminar discussions and class activities.)

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. Please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. 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.

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO

Course Activities

Part of the class will include on-site research using The New Gallery archives lodged at John Snow House. The cost for transportation to, and parking at, this venue are the responsibility of the student.

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade	G.P.A.	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 complete.
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.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Use of cellphones or messaging devices during class time is strictly prohibited. Inability to meet this requirement may result in the forfeiture of the Participation evaluation.

Academic Accommodation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

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 go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final

F.O.I.P.

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

Writing/Plagiarism

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.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services (at the Student Success Centre) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

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

Student Misconduct

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

Student Union and Student Ombudsman

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

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

Lockers

The Art Building lockers are administered by the Students' Union in 251 MacEwan Student Centre. There are various shapes and sizes of lockers for rent. Please write down the barcode numbers (top left of each locker) for the locker shape that you require and bring this list with you to the SU office between 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m., Monday-Friday. **Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.**

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

Models

In this class students are expected to draw from nude models. A student electing not to do so must notify the instructors IN WRITING of his/her concerns.

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.

All unclaimed work will be disposed of two weeks after the end 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/research/cfreb>

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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Stop by SS110, call us at 220-3580 or email us at 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 2nd 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.

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