

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

**Art (ART) 399 L01
Art In Theory And Practice I
Fall 2017**

Lecture: Wednesday 5.00pm – 7.45pm; AB 672

Instructor: *Dick Aaverns*
Office Location: *AB 667*
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Web Page: *N.A.*
Office Hours: *Tue & Thurs 12.30 - 1.30pm*
Teaching Assistant: *Chris Savage*

Course Description

Theories of art, critical methodologies, and aesthetics in the visual arts across history and cultures.

This course develops an understanding of theories shaping art and aesthetics, in conjunction with developing skills and confidence in critical thinking and cultural awareness. Lectures, readings and discussions span Greek, modern, and late capital eras. Topics include Plato's Cave, the Communist Manifesto, artistic form, modernism, gender and indigeneity. In addition to instructor lectures and presentations the course comprises participatory and experiential learning, including seminar discussions and student presentations. Class attendance and participation are essential for success.

Objectives of the Course

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

- 1 been introduced to, and understand, significant historical examples of theory and aesthetics influencing the visual arts.
- 2 become conversant in select critical methodologies used to analyze art, theory and aesthetics.
- 3 gained an understanding of ascribing value & criticality in relation to art and culture.
- 4 acquired a context and understanding of theories influencing a range of art forms including sculpture, painting, performativity and oral traditions, replete with aesthetic considerations
- 5 developed skills in critical thinking, research, & analysis in oral & written form
- 6 acquired an expanded art vocabulary
- 7 developed practical skills in public presentation and the use of supporting technologies

Textbooks and Readings

Select readings will be available either online or in the print reserve section of the TFDL (ground floor behind service desk).

Assignments and Evaluation

The assignment and evaluation structure for this course is designed to support a balanced approach to learning. Regular attendance and participation fosters engagement and is rewarded with significant participation marks. Incremental tests structured with multiple choice, true/false and short answers provide students with ongoing evaluation and feedback to help prepare for later assignments. Initial readings are longer, although the overall proportion of course grades increases gradually through the course, with a related increase in choice of both readings and topics for assignments. This enables students to tailor their learning to individual preferences. Students will be provided with weekly objectives to assist with direction and achieving learning outcomes. Modes of evaluation are split between three broad areas: tests (but no final exam), written work, participation and a short presentation.

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. 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 test (Oct 4)

5%

This short test is based on methodological terms, and initial readings as covered in the first month of the course. Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, and instructor presentations.

In class test (Oct 18)

5%

This short test is based on readings leading up until mid-term. Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, and instructor presentations.

Mid-term exam (Oct 25)

20%

Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, instructor presentations, fieldwork and homework, during the first half of the course, including key vocabulary, readings and class discussions.

Article Written Response and Discussion (Nov 15)

15%

For this assignment you will read several articles relating to indigeneity. Selecting one, you will then write an overview and response to your chosen reading, also addressing key questions. Your initial response will be shared with class peers for discussion, reflection and analysis. You will then revise your writing before submission, and participate in class discussions to share responses. Two-thirds of this grade is directed to the written assignment, and one-third toward responses and participation.

Individual presentations (Nov 22-Dec 6)

20%

Each student will make a seminar presentation on a topic that links a theoretical methodology with an artwork or movement, that also relates to at least one course reading. This will follow the *pecha kucha* format: this is a PowerPoint presentation (or similar software) that comprises 20 slides/visuals timed for 20 seconds each, with a student narrated commentary based on a script, totaling a 6m 40s

presentation. A roster for these presentations will be compiled after midterm at which time full details of the assignment will be provided.

Research Essay (Due last class, Dec 6) 25%

1,000 – 1,500 word essay engaging with course material. Full details will be provided after midterm. Grade will be given at the end of semester.

DRAFT SCHEDULE

This schedule provides a narrative structure for the course, including key dates for readings and assignments. 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 the *Guide to Asking Essential Questions*, as will be covered in week 2. Specific guidelines, dates and grading criteria for each assignment will be provided on an ongoing basis, with an overview also provided in the Course Outline.

Please note this schedule may vary to accommodate course flexibility, such as field trips or visiting speakers, and University/Department events.

Week/Date	Topics and Readings
Wk 1 (Sept 13)	Who are we, why are we here & what is... art in theory and practice anyway? Course Intro & Guideline
Wk 2 (Sept 20)	Thinking Critically and a Primer in Language and Aesthetics <i>A Guide to Asking Essential Questions</i> and heading back to Plato's Cave
Wk 3 (Sept 27)	From the Darkness Cometh Possibilities Anew Plato's <i>Republic VII</i> (The Allegory of the Cave)
Wk 4 (Oct 4)	Capital, Class and Conflict (In-class test – 5% of course) Engels and Marx <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> p.14-34
Wk 5 (Oct 11)	Art in the Ages of World War and Mechanical Reproduction Marinetti <i>The Futurist Manifesto</i> Walter Benjamin "Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"
Wk 6 (Oct 18)	Modernism in Full Swing: Aesthetics to the fore (In-class test – 5% of course) Clement Greenberg "Modernist Painting"
Wk 7 (Oct 25)	MID TERM EXAM (20%)
Wk 8 (Nov 1)	Otherness, Gender, <i>The Second Sex</i> Simone de Beauvoir. "Introduction," <i>The Second Sex</i>
Wk 9 (Nov 8)	Field Trip: Venue to be confirmed Becker on Marcuse
Wk 10 (Nov 15)	Indigeneity: Article Summary and discussion (15%) The "Indian Princess, Kent Monkman, and Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

- Wk 11 (Nov 22) **Student Presentations (20%)**
- Wk 12 (Nov 29) **Student Presentations (20%)**
- Wk 13 (Dec 6) **Student Presentations (20%)**
LAST CLASS
(Essays Due – 25%)

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! Weekly participation submissions should be typed!

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.

Writing

The student seminar presentations, exam, and essay 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 essay.

To pass the course students must complete the mid-term exam, article response, seminar presentations and essay, and pass the seminar presentation and essay assignments.

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.

https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview

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 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 (e.g., an A assignment will become an A-, or a B+ will become a B) 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

Any work submitted must have a cover sheet with your name and student number clearly printed, and the assignment title and instructor name. 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.

Course Activities

When taking part in field trips please show respect and gratitude to members of the public and those persons involved in the activities. Note that students will be responsible for their own 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. Regular attendance, participation and completion of homework are required to ensure optimum success.

All assignments must be completed on time (see Late Assignment Policy).

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

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

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

Lockers for all sessions can be rented through my.ucalgary.ca. Once you are 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 or 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.