

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 301.01
Studies in Contemporary Canadian Art

Lecture: W 12:00 - 14:45 AB 658

Instructor: DR. RICHARD SMOLINSKI
Office Location: AB 647
Office Phone: N/A
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Web Page: N/A
Office Hours: Wednesdays 15:00-16:00 or by appointment

Course Description

Study of recent Canadian art from a range of perspectives in art criticism.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

None

Objectives of the Course

The objective of this course is to develop the students' understanding of recent trends and developments in Canadian art, and relate current national creative practice to international contexts. As well, students will gain an enhanced awareness of contemporary Canadian artists working across a broad spectrum of genres and creative methodologies. By completing written assignments, oral presentations and participating in seminar discussions, the students will gain greater confidence critically engaging with contemporary creative practice.

Textbooks and Readings

Required text: Markonish, Denise. *Oh, Canada: Contemporary Art from North North America* (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2012).

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the term and will be available from on-line sources. The full reading schedule will be posted on D2L.

Recommended reading: students are encouraged to read recent issues of *Canadian Art*, *C Magazine* and *Border Crossings* to broaden their understanding of the subject and to locate possible research subjects for the Curatorial projects that complete the term.

Assignments and Evaluation

Full outlines of assignments will be distributed later in the term and will also be available on D2L.

2 Gallery Reports (2 x 20%=40%) Due: Sept. 23 Oct. 14

Curatorial Project—Two Parts

Curatorial Pitch—In class Presentation (20%) Oct. 28, Nov. 4

Curatorial Project (30%): Nov. 25

Final in-class exam (10%): Dec. 2

Gallery Reports (2 x 20 % each=40%): Sept. 23 Oct. 14

Each gallery report will be a minimum 500 words in length and will describe a work by a Canadian artist found in a gallery from a provided list of venues. The student will analyze the work as a cultural text and also discuss how the work is related to one or more of the issues that arise in our lectures and readings such as:

What is Canadian Identity?

First Nations Identity and Experience

Immigration, Integration and Difference

Environmental Concerns

Regions and Centres

Urban and Rural Culture

Traditions and Innovations, Revivals and Renovations

In addition to well-argued analysis of the selected artwork and demonstration of an understanding of the issues relevant to contemporary Canadian art, the evaluation of the assignment will also take into account clarity of writing, spelling, grammar usage and the structure of your argument.

List of galleries and further instructions will be distributed in class on Sept. 16

Curatorial Project—Two Parts

Choice One: ideal for students enrolled in studio art programme.

Developing a curatorial theme that expands upon or synthesizes the differing themes and organizing principles suggested by our texts, assigned readings and in-class discussions and developing a curated exhibition that includes three-to-five Canadian artists *including yourself*. Students must discuss between 5-7 artworks.

This project will help students understand the contexts of their creative efforts and situate themselves within contemporary discussions of culture.

Choice Two:

Develop a curatorial theme that expands upon the differing themes and organizing principles suggested by our texts, assigned readings and in-class discussions and developing a curated exhibition that includes three-to-five artists. Students must discuss between 5-7 artworks.

***This project cannot use more than one (1) piece from the *Oh, Canada* textbook, but can include up to three artists that appear in that text.

Part One: Curatorial Pitch—In class Presentation (20%) Oct. 28, Nov. 4

Students will prepare a 10 minute presentation that briefly describes your curatorial theme and introduces the artists that you have selected for the exhibition. The student should think of this as a “pitch” presentation to an exhibiting institution and that you are trying to convince us to support your curatorial project.

The presentation must include visual illustrations. A scripted presentation of this length would equal 4-4½ double-spaced pages of Times New Roman 12-point font.

***Students must prepare materials on a USB drive for upload onto classroom computer. Cloud-based/google doc presentations will not be accepted.

Part Two: Curatorial Project Essay (30%): Nov. 25

The essay should be 2,500 words minimum and the paper can be thought of as a catalogue essay illuminating your curatorial focus and explaining how each of the selected artworks is related to that organizing principle. The curated exhibition must also be located in an actual venue or an alternative space relevant to your chosen theme.

The essay must be illustrated with a floorplan or illustrations that show how the work is situated within the exhibition space. Pay attention to the actual scale of the pieces involved when completing this portion of the assignment.

***Students must submit this final work **electronically**.

Writing

As mentioned above, effective post-secondary level writing is essential for successful completion of the course and will be accounted for in the grading of assignments.

It is not necessary to achieve a passing grade on any particular component of a course in order to pass the course as a whole.

Students are required to complete **all** assignments to pass the course. Any missed submissions will result in the student failing the course.

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 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.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be lowered a grade level on the first day late (B+ to B; C to C-) and an additional grade level one week after the due date (B to B-; C- to D+). Assignments more than one week late may not be accepted.

Additional Information

Visits to galleries and art institutions in Calgary will be required; students will be responsible for their own transportation and any associated fees.

Course Activities (Tentative Schedule)

Week One (Sept. 9) Introduction—Oh, Canada—Assumptions, Clichés
Dissecting Works of Art
Establishing a Dialogue between Works of Art

Week Two (Sept. 16) The Centre (s) and the Regions, What is Contemporarity?

Week Three (Sept. 23) The East and the West, the North and the South **Gallery Report Due**

Week Four (Sept. 30) First Nations Culture, Contact, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Week Five (Oct. 7)—**Gallery visit** to Esker and elsewhere

Week Six (Oct. 14) Canada, Ex-pats and the Global Art Scene **Gallery Report Due**

Week Seven (Oct. 21) Eco-critical Landscape

Week Eight (Oct. 28)-**in-class presentations** discussion of curation

Week Nine (Nov. 4) **in-class presentations** artists as curators

NO CLASS (Nov. 11) NO CLASS

Week Ten (Nov. 18) Humour, Satire, Critique

Week Eleven (Nov. 25)—curatorial projects due—**gallery visits, info for exam.**

Week Twelve (Dec. 2) Last class—in-class exam

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade	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 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.

Studio Procedures

The creation of art can be a dirty process and a studio is only workable if everyone cooperates in keeping it clean. Out of respect and consideration for your class mates and other users of the space, it is expected that everyone will participate in keeping the studio clean and tidy.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Students may use electronic devices for note-taking and for immediate access to examples of work relevant to in class assignments. Students using social media devices and services, mobile phones or messaging devices may be asked to leave the class.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors.

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 .

For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

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. 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/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

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](#).

Lockers for all sessions can be rented through 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

NOT APPLICABLE

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/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 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.