

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 311 - Lecture 03

Topics in Art

“Art of the Soul: Creative Process as Spiritual Practice”

Spring 2015

Lecture: M,W, May 20 - June 3; 09:00-14:50; AB 677

Instructor:	Chelsea Rushton
Office Location:	AB 643
E-Mail:	clrushto@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours:	BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Course Description

Topics in art may include art appreciation, art and everyday life, themes in art history

This lecture course will survey the work of a number of artists in the Western canon (between the late 1800s and the present) who engage or have engaged in art-making processes as a method of self-inquiry and spiritual practice. We will look at how two- and three-dimensional art objects can function doubly as sacred or ritual objects, as well as how time-based and performance art rooted in ritual or ceremony can transform an environment to create sacred space. Study of the artists will be supported with an exploration of the theoretical literature that contextualizes their work.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

None

Objectives of the Course

Students will complete this course with a foundational knowledge of spiritual traditions in 20th century art that continue to inform contemporary practice. Students will also gain considerable experience in contributing their ideas to small and large group discussions in a safe environment, and engage different methods of meditation to inform their own creative processes.

Required Readings

1. Fischer, Kathleen. "Long Life on a Fragile Planet: Nature, Spirituality, and Aging." *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging*. Vol. 23, Issue 3. May 2011.
2. Martin, Paul C. "The Colourful Depictions of God in Mystical Consciousness." *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*. Vol. 14, No. 1, Spring 2014.

3. Lawlor, Robert. "The Practice of Geometry"; "Sacred Geometry: Metaphor of Universal Order." *Sacred Geometry: Philosophy and Practice*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1982.
4. Kane, Paul. "Inner Landscapes as Sacred Landscapes." *The Kenyon Review*, The New Series, Vol. 25, No. 3/4. Autumn 2003.

Optional (Recommended) Readings

1. Clemen, Carl. "Anthroposophy." *The Journal of Religion*, Vol. 4, No. 3, 1924.
2. Pickstone, Charles. "A Theology of Abstraction: Wassily Kandinsky's 'Concerning the Spiritual in Art'". *Theology*, Volume 114, No. 32, 2011.
3. Erzen, Jale Nejdet. "Islamic Aesthetics: An Alternative Way to Knowledge." *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. Vol. 65, No. 1. Winter 2007.
4. Kurbanovsky, Alexi. "Malevich's Mystic Signs: From Iconoclasm to New Theology." *Sacred Stories: Religion and Spirituality in Modern Russia*. Indiana University Press, 2007.
5. Stoeber, Michael. "Theosophical Influences on the Painting and Writing of Lawren Harris: Re-Imagining Theosophy Through Canadian Art." *Toronto Journal of Theology*, Vol. 28, No. 1. Spring 2012.
6. "Spirituality." *Art 21*. PBS, 2001.

NOTE: Web links to all readings will be made available to students through email or D2L.

Assignments and Evaluation

READING RESPONSES AND DISCUSSION: 20%

We will engage in critical discussion of FOUR readings (as listed above in REQUIRED READINGS) over the course of the term (approximately one per class; see the tentative reading discussion dates below).

Students will be evaluated on a two-part engagement with these readings, each worth 5% of the final grade: 2.5%: 200-300 word written response, to be handed in as hard copy at the beginning of class on the day of the reading discussion.

2.5%: participation in group discussion of the reading.

Please note: The written response is NOT a summary of the reading; it is a RESPONSE to it. I am particularly interested in questions the readings raise for you, points of disagreement you may have with the material, and ideas that you find are applicable in your life or creative research. Likewise, participation in class discussions is vital because student contributions to the conversation will shape final exam questions.

TENTATIVE READING DISCUSSION DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Monday May 25: Long Life on a Fragile Planet

Wednesday May 27: The Colourful Depictions of God

Monday June 1: Sacred Geometry: Theory and Practice

Wednesday June 3: Inner Landscapes as Sacred Landscapes

REFLECTION JOURNAL / SKETCHBOOK: 20%

Information comes to us through the processes of meditation and reflection that we would not otherwise receive through our conscious thinking. The last period of each class will be reserved for meditation and reflection for exactly this reason. We will spend approximately 30-45 minutes in meditation (or in a meditative activity), and then students will be given approximately 30-45 minutes of unstructured studio time to reflect in a journal or sketchbook on what may have arisen through the meditation or throughout the day. The journal or sketchbook will be graded not on content but on completion, i.e. a visible engagement with the practice each day. Drawing, painting, prose, poetry, bullet notes, lists, and diagrams are just some of the ways students might choose to record and expand ideas and insights.

CREATIVE ESSAY / PROJECT, DUE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, at the instructor's office (*time will be determined in class*) 30%

Choose ONE of the following two options:

1. Essay: Write a 2,000-2,500 word essay on a topic of your choice that is inspired by course content. Your topic can be a further elaboration of material we have covered in class, or an exploration of something the course has not covered, but is related to it.
2. Creative Project: Create a piece of art in any medium, accompanied by a 200-300 word artist statement, that demonstrates engagement with course content.

ALL TOPICS TO BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE INSTRUCTOR.

DETAILS REGARDING STUDENT-BASED EVALUATION RUBRIC WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN CLASS AND ON D2L.

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.

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

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – YES, FRIDAY JUNE 5, 9a.m. - 11a.m. AB 677, 30%

This exam will be made up of four sections, with multiple choice, matching, short answer, and slide comparison questions that take up material from the lectures and readings.

Late Assignment Policy

Reading responses: Must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the day that the reading is being discussed. In the event of illness, you may submit your reading response by email IN ADVANCE of class start time to receive the completion grade for the written component (2.5%).

Field Assignment and Creative Essay / Project: Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day; weekends count as two days.

Course Activities

Students have the opportunity to participate in an optional non-graded, practical workshop to make and learn the fundamental principles of pendulums, the tool Emma Kunz used to plot all of her compositions before drawing them. The Workshop will be held in the last portion of class on June 1 (1.45 - 3 p.m.). If any students do not wish to participate, they will not be required to stay for the last portion; however, they must notify the instructor at least 24 hours in advance of the class that they will be absent.

Optional fees

If students make pendulums, they will be required either to bring their own supplies, or contribute \$15 to the cost of supplies to be provided by the instructor.

Students will also be required to keep a journal/sketchbook throughout the course; they can make or buy one as they choose.

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.

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

Electronic devices may be used in class ONLY for the purpose of engaging with course material (note taking, web searching, etc.). If devices distract students from session proceedings, they will be confiscated until the end of the class.

Academic Accommodation

For more information 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 offence. 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 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

In this class students may be 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.

Note - All unclaimed work will be disposed of.

Note - Studio spaces 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 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 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.