

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 311.01

Topics in Art

“Perspectives in Plein Air”

Summer 2016 (July 4 – August 15)

Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 – 3:45pm

Instructor: *Maria Whiteman*
Office Location: *AB647*
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Web Page: *N.A.*
Office Hours: *By Appointment*

Course Description

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

En Plein Air is the practice of making art outdoors. This long tradition has become internationally widespread since its adoption during the 17th century in Italy and the 19th century in France. In this course, students will be introduced to the concepts and contexts that gave rise to and shaped Plein Air practice. Through the course of history, we will study artists from different nationalities whose works reflect a wide range of strategies to explore nature and the urban environment in the open air. Supported by theories of perceptual experiences, the course will emphasize our strong relationship with nature and our vital need to explore the world through a self-investigative perspective. The course will also cover the New Pleinairism whereby contemporary artists continue to embrace every day themes and seek for truth and connection with local landscapes.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

None

Objectives of the Course

Through lectures, screenings, readings, presentations, class project, class activities and outdoor sessions, students will discover a sense of Plein Air practice that deepens one’s perception, sense of identity, and place. After the completion of this course, students will understand the major concepts that underlie the Plein Air practice and how the movement continues in a more contemporary mode in Earth Art and Contemporary Environmental Art. Students will also become familiar with the artists who followed this practice throughout the course of history, and come to understand how this long tradition continues to influence artists today. By understanding the essence of Plein Air, students will be able to examine their individual experiences in context of this particular practice while extending their individual practice to new possibilities of experimentation and research.

Suggested Readings

- Miller, Muriel. *Homer Watson: The Man of Doon*. Summer Press Toronto, 1988
- Boetzkes, Amanda. *The Ethics of Earth Art*. University of Minnesota Press, 2010 (Chapter 1,

25-57)

- Irigaray, Luce. *Elemental Passions*. Translated by Joanne Collie and Judith Still, Routledge, 1992. (Forward & 7-18)

Assignments and Evaluation

Class Assignments.....25%

3 assignments due July 13, 20, 25 (weighted equally).

Assignments will be based on group discussions and interpretations of art works; questions and answers during reading activities; and small outdoor excursions around the University campus.

Class Project35%

Due August 1. Based on a chosen contemporary artist - students will produce a project that encounters the landscape through a camera by following another artist's work to lend an eye to what's at stake when making photographic work on the landscape. Students are expected to complete photo narrative of 15 images that engages on issues and concerns about the environment. All images printed postcard size no larger with 300 word summary.

Exam10%

Written in-class exam July 27.

Individual Presentation.....30%

On July 6th, students will choose presentation topics. Ten-minute PowerPoint presentation based on a chosen contemporary Plein Air, Earth Art or Contemporary Environmental artwork. Each student will sign up for a topic and time to present. For those who are interested, it will be possible to develop an individual artwork for this presentation. However, those students who do so will still have to present their art project through a formal PowerPoint presentation. The presentations will begin on July 18 to August 3.

**To pass this course, students will be required to complete ALL ASSIGNMENTS.
All assignments must be submitted directly to the instructor**

Writing

Grading will be based primarily on the content of responses. Please ensure that your answers and arguments are presented in a logically organized way, based on the content of the assignment.

Students are not required to achieve a **passing grade on any particular component of the course in order to pass the course as a whole.**

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

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO

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

Due dates are final unless otherwise negotiated with the instructor. Late assignments may still receive a grade penalty of up to 5% per day of lateness. No work will be accepted, without prior arrangement, after the last day of the classes, which means August 15, 2017.

Additional Information

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: plastic covers or folders are not necessary.

Course Activities

Classes will be composed of lectures, photo-project, discussions, students written responses, screenings, readings, class activities, outdoor sessions and student presentations. The classes may include guest lectures as well as field trips. As required, students will be expected to assume responsibility for their **own transportation** to and from the field trip and for any associated fees (if applicable). Since those who are interested will be able to develop an individual artwork, I encourage students to have a camera AND sketch book so they will be able to compile their ideas and their experiences during their outdoor sessions.

Course Activities

** This schedule is tentative and subject to change.*

DATE	TOPIC OF CLASS	TYPE OF CLASS
July 4 Tue	Overview of course outline, introductions for the instructor and students.	Discussion, Handouts, Meet Groups, Projects
July 6 Thur	The History of Plein Air France	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities
July 11 Tue	The History of Plein Air UK / Canada	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities
July 13 Thur	Plein Air and Earth Art New beginnings in the Landscape Field Trip	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, presentation topics assigned to students Fieldtrip* (<i>students will be responsible for their own transportation and any associated fees</i>)
July 18 Tue	Earth Art and Landscapes	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, Presentations
July 20 Thur	Earth Art Looking at the Elements, Sky Spaces, Nature as a Site	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, Presentations
July 25 Tue	Earth Art Material, Surface and the body	Fieldtrip* (<i>students will be responsible for their own transportation and any associated fees</i>)
July 27 Thur	Museum	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, Presentations
Aug 1 Tue	Hanging work in Gallery	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, Presentations
Aug 3 Thur	Contemporary Landscape Art	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, Presentations
Aug 8 Tue	Contemporary Landscape Art	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, Presentations
Aug 10 Thur	Contemporary Landscape Art	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities, Presentations
Aug 15 Tue	End of Class	Lecture group, Discussion, Project Time, Activities

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
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject
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 classmates 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

The use of laptops for note taking purposes is permitted in this class. Texting and use of social media are not allowed in the classroom.

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 "(Instructor) (Associate Dean) (Department Head) (other designated person)".

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/wpcontent/uploads/2014/08/locker_rental_agreement_2010.pdf

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 INWRITING 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, 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.