

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 311 Lecture 02

Topics in Art

“Survey of New Media”

Summer 2014

T, R 6:00 - 8:45 PM; AB 672

Instructor: *Craig Fahner*
Office Location: *AB 648*
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Office Hours: *T, R 5:00 - 6:00 PM*

Course Description

An examination of trends in art practice throughout the 20th and 21st centuries in relation to developments in media technologies.

Objectives of the Course

Students in this course will examine significant movements in contemporary art from 1950 onward. Shifts towards postmodernism, performance, video, interactive media and social practice will be assessed in the context of emergent political and technological ideologies. Screenings, readings and lectures will cover major artists, movements and theories, giving form to the often-nebulous terms "contemporary art" and "new media."

Forming a foundational understanding of major movements in art and media in the late 20th century, students will be equipped with the theoretical and historical language to discuss issues in contemporary art leading up to the present. Students will respond to these issues through analytical responses. Through this exploration students will contextualize their individual practices in the theoretical and historical arc of contemporary art.

Suggested Readings

Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"
Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author"
Marshall McLuhan, "Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man"
Luigi Russolo, "The Art of Noises"
John Berger, "Ways of Seeing"
Jean Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulation"
David Rokeby, "Transforming Mirrors"

Assignments and Evaluation

Unit Quizzes: Multiple choice quizzes are held at the end of each major topic, reviewing artists and artworks discussed in relation to the specific genre of art covered in the unit.

Journal entries: After each major topic covered (on a weekly or bi-weekly basis) students will be required to submit an approximately half page response relating assigned readings to the material

presented during lectures. These journal entries should consist of personal reflections on class discussions.

Final: An assignment covering major overarching issues in all the genres of art discussed in class.

Unit quizzes	55%
Unit 1 (Art + Mechanical Reproduction) July 15 th	
Unit 2 (Sound, Video + Performance) July 29 th	
Unit 3 (Electronic art + interactivity) August 5 th	
Journal entries	35%
Final assignment August 5 th + 7 th	10%
(due no later than August 12 th)	

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

Late Policy

Customarily, late work is not accepted. Valid, documented medical situations should be brought to the instructor's attention at the earliest possible moment in order to clarify whether late work will qualify for credit.

Course Activities

Part of the requirements for this class may include a visit to one or more exhibitions of new media work at galleries in Calgary (students will be responsible for their own transportation & entrance fee to any exhibits). These plans are pending. Students will provide responses to the work they encounter during these visits as journal entries

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

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

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 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 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/>

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.

Class Schedule

Week 1	July 3 rd	Intro to media culture and the arts
Week 2	July 8 th + 10 th	The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duchamp's readymades• The Futurists
Week 3	July 15 th + 17 th	Sound Art <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Cage and Indeterminacy• Situationism• Sound as signal
Week 4	July 22 nd + 24 th	Video and performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notions of authorship and remixing• Performance art• Video Art• Hyperreality
Week 5	July 29 th + 31 st	Electronic art, robotics, interactivity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tactical media• Interdisciplinary art
Week 6	August 5 th + 7 th	Final assignment

Final assignment due no later than August 12th

Note: these dates are tentative and may be subject to change

Quiz Schedule

Unit 1 (Art + Mechanical Reproduction)	July 15 th
Unit 2 (Sound, Video + Performance)	July 29 th
Unit 3 (Electronic art + interactivity)	August 5 th