

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ART

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE**

**Art (ART) 311 L04  
Topics in Art**

**“Collectivity and Crisis in the European Avant-Gardes”**

*1<sup>st</sup> 3 weeks of Summer 2017*

*MW 12:00-17:45, AB 672*

**Instructor:** *Trevor Stark*  
**Office Location:** *T.B.A.*  
**Office Phone:** *N.A.*  
**E-Mail:** [\*Trevor.stark@ucalgary.ca\*](mailto:Trevor.stark@ucalgary.ca)  
**Web Page:** *N.A.*  
**Office Hours:** *By appointment or after class*

**Course Description**

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

This course offers a focused introduction to the early-twentieth-century avant-garde movements through an in-depth analysis of works of art in their historical and political contexts. Designating a variety of art collectives, the concept of the “avant-garde” itself will be the main topic of the class. What historical forces spurred a range of artists to organize into collaborative groups? What social role for art did these groups envisage, and what was their relation to the political crises of their time, from two World Wars to a sequence of revolutions and repressions? Progressing chronologically and ranging across Europe and the Soviet Union, this course will investigate groups and tendencies including Impressionism, Cubism, Futurism, Dada, Constructivism, the Bauhaus, abstraction, de Stijl, and Surrealism, and end with a consideration of the avant-gardes’ responses to Stalinism and Fascism.

**Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites**

*N.A.*

**Objectives of the Course**

“Crisis and Collectivity in the European Avant-Gardes” has three principal objectives:

- to introduce students to the main artistic movements that emerged in Europe and the Soviet Union from the late nineteenth-century to World War II, and to situate them in their historical and political contexts;
- to develop visual literacy through the close study of significant artworks;
- to strengthen critical listening, reading, and writing skills.

**Textbooks and Readings**

*Readings will be posted in pdf form online.*

## Assignments and Evaluation

Class participation	(20%)
Daily in-class assignments	(25% total, 5% each)
Two quizzes	(20%): July 12 and July 19
Visual analysis assignment	(15%): Due July 17 (2-3 pages)
Critical essay assignment	(20%): Due July 19 (3-5 pages)

## Participation

Daily participation is an important component of the course. This requires attendance, punctuality, and attention in every session as a minimum condition. Each student will be evaluated based on their informed, respectful, and active participation in group discussions and activities.

This course requires students to carefully read an essay assigned for each class after the first meeting. These readings will be discussed together in class and serve as the basis of some daily writing assignments.

A rubric for participation will be provided in class.

## Writing and Assignments

Writing is an important component of this class. Graded writing assignments will comprise daily exercises or responses, and two longer-form essay assignments.

The “visual analysis assignment” will ask students to choose a work of art from a list provided on the first day of class. Students will then describe and analyze the artwork based on the skills and knowledge developed in the course.

The “critical essay assignment” will ask students to read, analyze, and interpret an assigned art historical essay. Students will evaluate it in relation to the course’s core themes and topics.

Further instructions for both assignments will be provided on the first day of class.

Please submit writing assignments online through the D2L dropbox.

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.**

## Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will lose a letter grade per day in penalties (e.g., from A- to B+), and no assignments will be accepted after July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Daily in-class assignments will only be accepted during class.

## Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO

### Course Activities

1. July 5
  - a) Introduction: Impressionism and Modernity
  - b) Cubism and “Primitivism”
2. July 10
  - a) Futurism and Expressionism
  - b) Abstraction and De Stijl

### READING:

Leah Dickerman, “Inventing Abstraction” in *Inventing Abstraction, 1910-1925: How a*

*Radical Idea Changed Modern Art* (2012)  
 "1909" in *Art since 1900*

3. July 12
  - a) The Russian Revolution in Art: Suprematism and Constructivism
  - b) Art into Production: Productivism and the Bauhaus

READING:

Christina Kiaer, "The Constructivist Flapper Dress" in *Imagine No Possessions: The Socialist Objects of Russian Constructivism* (2008)  
 "1915" in *Art Since 1900*

4. July 17
  - a) Dada I: Zurich and Berlin
  - b) Dada II: Marcel Duchamp, Francis Picabia, Man Ray

READING:

Brigid Doherty, "Berlin Dada" in *Dada* (2005)  
 "1914" in *Art Since 1900*

5. July 19
  - a) Surrealism
  - b) Fascism and the Avant-Gardes

READING:

Rosalind Krauss, "A Game Plan: The Terms of Surrealism" in *Passages in Modern Sculpture* (1977)  
 "1937" in *Art Since 1900*

**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**

N.A.

## **Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information**

Absolutely no cell phones allowed in class.

Laptops will only be permitted as an option during designated class activities.

Please bring a pencil/pen and a notebook/pad to every class for note-taking during lectures, activities, and writing assignments.

During times when laptops are permitted, absolutely no unauthorized use of the internet is permitted.

## **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://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](http://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](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](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](http://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**

Not applicable

### **Ethics**

Not applicable

### **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](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca) or [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.