

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 399 L01
Art in Theory and Practice I
Fall 2020
Tues, Thurs 11am – 12:15pm

This course will be delivered remotely through synchronous Zoom meetings.
Every Tuesday, Dr. Andersen will give a lecture on a theoretical framework.
Every Thursday, students will give short presentations and we will discuss the assigned readings.

Technology Requirements for Students Taking Online, Remote and Blended Courses

Please review the information regarding technological requirements for online courses here
<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/technology-requirements-for-students/>

Instructor: Dr. Tawny Andersen
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Web Page: N.A.
Office Hours: Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 on Zoom

Course Description

Theories of art, critical methodologies, and aesthetics in the visual arts across history and cultures.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

N.A.

Objectives of the Course

In this course, students will be introduced to a range of theoretical perspectives and methodologies that inform the study, interpretation, and practice of visual art. These include Marxist theory, feminist theory, phenomenology, psychoanalytic theory, semiotics/structuralism, poststructuralist theory, queer theory, critical race theory, postcolonial theory, performance theory, and posthumanism. We will conduct close readings of both foundational texts in the above fields and art history texts that mobilize these theories to analyse works of art across a range of aesthetics over the past century. We will also examine how artists have put these theories into practice and, in some cases, anticipated them. Lastly, students will make a work of art informed by (one or several of) the above theories. Throughout the semester, our focus will be on the reciprocal relationship between art and theory; we will explore how these modes of configuring worlds influence and dialogue with one another—i.e. how ideas can be used to explore art, and how art can be used to explore ideas.

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Gain an introductory understanding of the major branches of contemporary critical theory
- Acquire the skills to read, analyze, and deconstruct complex theoretical/art historical texts

- Understand how artists have marshalled theoretical ideas into practice
- Practice incorporating critical theory into their own methodologies/artist work
- Learn how to draw on theoretical concepts to articulate their intellectual/artistic ambitions

Textbooks and Readings

All readings will be available through a persistent link posted on D2L.

Assignments and Evaluation

- 1) Participation in Class Discussions and Final Analyses of Artworks: 10%
 - 2) Group Presentation of Reading: 15%
 - 3) Paper Proposal: 10%
 - 4) Mid-term paper: 30%
 - 5) Final Artwork: 35% (25% Artwork, 10% Accompanying Statement)
- 1) **Participation:** Full attendance at both the Tuesday lectures and the Thursday class discussions is crucial to success in this class and to achieving full participation marks. Oral participation in class discussions is expected. You must read the required texts before you come to class, and be ready to debate their arguments with your colleagues. In order to facilitate this, I recommend making notes on each text prior to coming to class. The last three classes of the semester will be spent presenting and discussing student artwork. It is thus vital that you are present at these sessions (even if you have already presented your own work).
Percentage of final grade: **10%**.
 - 2) **Presentation of a Reading:** This activity will be conducted in groups of three. Each group will be responsible for presenting one of the required readings to the class during our Thursday discussion sessions. We will distribute the readings and form the groups in our first session (Tuesday, September 8). In your presentation, you should provide some biographical information on the author and some context for the publication, give a brief summary of the article's main arguments, and raise three questions for class discussion. Questions can be points of clarification, exploration, association, or critique. Presentations should be about fifteen minutes in length. You must submit a 250-word written summary of your presentation to Dr. Andersen the day before you present.
Percentage of final grade: **15%** (10% Presentation, 5% Written Summary)
 - 3) **Paper Proposal:** Write a 250-word proposal of your mid-term paper in which you state your research topic, stipulate which work of art you will analyze, lay out your methodology, list your main objectives/arguments, and provide a working bibliography.
Percentage of Final Grade: **10%**.
 - 4) **Mid-Term Paper:** Write a paper that analyzes a work of art produced in either the 20th or the 21st century from the perspective of one of the following theoretical perspectives: Marxism, feminism, phenomenology, or psychoanalysis. You may choose any work of art that you like, whether or not we have discussed the piece in class. If you opt to analyze a piece that we have covered in class, your analysis must go beyond what we have discussed. In any case, the analysis of the work should be original (i.e. your own), but must be informed by existing scholarship. In addition to the required course readings, you must cite an additional three scholarly sources of your choice (please note that websites do not count as legitimate scholarly sources). Provide a bibliography and use footnotes following the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Papers should be 1,500 words and structured like a traditional academic essay, with an introduction, a body of text that develops your arguments, and a conclusion. The paper should be double-spaced. Please include a title page with the paper's title and your full name.
Percentage of final grade: **30%**.

- 5) **Final Artwork:** For your final assignment, you are asked to create a work of art informed by two of the theoretical perspectives we have studied in class. You can create a work in any media of your choice. In addition, you must submit a 500-word artist statement that expresses your theoretical and intellectual ambitions with this work. This accompanying text should be written in the first-person.
Percentage of final grade: **35%** (Breakdown: artwork 25%, Artist statement 10%)

- **All assignments must be submitted via the appropriate drop box on D2L**

Writing

This course takes as its object of study theoretical and art historical texts. It functions on the premise that art and theory are two reciprocal modes of configuring, interpreting, and creating worlds. Students are asked to give equal time and thought to the relationship between form and content in their artist work and their writing. They are urged to proofread their written assignments, as they will also be graded on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style.

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

Students should contact the instructor if they miss a required component.

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.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be marked down 5% per day, including weekend days. No assignments will be accepted after the final day of classes (December 8). There are no exceptions to this rule except for health or family emergencies, in which case a medical certificate must be presented to Dr. Andersen.

Additional Information

N.A.

Course Activities

This course will consist of weekly lectures by Dr. Andersen (given every Tuesday) and student presentations and class discussions (which will take place every Thursday) conducted online through Zoom video conferences. You will be required to read, analyze, and discuss assigned texts, critically examine works of art, and engage in independent, hands-on studio work outside of class time. We will also view videos and documentaries. Please see the above section on assignments and evaluation for details. Below is a provisional schedule of activities.

Tuesday Sept 8: Review of the syllabus, and explanation/scheduling of required assignments

Thursday Sept 10: Introductory lecture by Dr. Andersen and class discussion

Tuesday Sept 15: Lecture on Marxist theory

Thursday Sept 17: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Sept 22: Lecture on feminist theory

Thursday Sept 24: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Sept 29: Lecture on phenomenology

Thurs Oct 1: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Oct 6: Lecture on psychoanalytic theory

Thursday Oct 8: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Oct 13: Lecture on semiotics and structuralism ***Paper proposals due**

Thursday Oct 15: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Oct 20: Lecture on poststructuralist theory ***Paper proposals returned**

Thursday Oct 22: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Oct 27: Lecture on queer theory

Thursday Oct 29: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Nov 3: Lecture on critical race theory and postcolonial theory ***Mid-term papers due**

Thursday Nov 5: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Nov 10: *Term break: no classes*

Thursday Nov 12: *Term break: no classes*

Tuesday Nov 17: Lecture on performance theory

Thursday Nov 19: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Tuesday Nov 24: Lecture on posthumanism

Thursday Nov 26: Student presentations on assigned readings and class discussion

Monday, November 31: Final artworks and accompanying artist statements due

Tuesday Dec 1: Presentations and analysis of student artworks

Thursday Dec 3: Presentations and analysis of student artworks

Tuesday Dec 8: Presentations and analysis of student artworks

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.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Because this class will be delivered remotely, you will need computer and internet access to complete it. It is preferable that you leave your camera on for the duration of the class in order to facilitate discussion, provide a sense of community, and humanize our interactions.

Please review the following information regarding technological requirements for online courses:

<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/technology-requirements-for-students/>

Models

N.A.

Portfolios and Assignments

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading.

Studio Procedures

N.A.

Academic Accommodations

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 the course instructor.

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 deferral of 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

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.

Campus Mental Health Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#) and the [Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)

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>

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>

Instructor Intellectual Property and Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.).

Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Lockers

N.A.

Student Misconduct

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Student Ombudsman

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Student Union

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

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. Call us at 220-3580 or email us at ascarts@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.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625].