

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ART

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE**

**Art (ART) 499 L01**

**Art in Theory and Practice II**

**Winter 2020**

Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00 – 6:15pm AB 672

**Instructor:** *Dick Averbs*  
**Office Location:** *T.B.A.*  
**Office Phone:** *N.A.*  
**E-Mail:** *dick.averbs@ucalgary.ca*  
**Web Page:** *N.A.*  
**Office Hours:** *Thursdays 6.15 – 7.15pm*

**Course Description**

Examination and discussion of theoretical issues associated with current practice in art.

**Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites**

Art 399 and admission to the BFA or BFA Honours in Visual Studies.

**Objectives of the Course**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

1. been introduced to significant examples of theoretical issues associated with current practice in art, and their precedents.
2. gained an understanding of ascribing value and criticality in the making of contemporary art.
3. become thoroughly conversant in aspects of modernity, modernism, postmodernity, postmodernism, altermodern, and post-truth.
4. gained a context and reference for investigations into making art.
5. been introduced to critical methods and terms used in current art historical literature and contemporary art criticism in the analysis of contemporary art.
6. developed practical skills in public presentation and the use of supporting technologies.
7. developed skills in critical thinking, research, and analysis of contemporary art works in oral and written form.
8. an expanded art vocabulary, particularly pertaining to critical theory and cultural theory.

## **Textbooks and Readings**

Assigned readings will be made available via a course pack (likely digital on D2L) or closed reserve in the TFDL. Students are required to complete all assigned readings and are expected to arrive at class with an annotated copy of the text and notes that address the content of the reading.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

### **Participation**

**10%**

Participation grade will be based on engaging with readings. Students will be required to provide 10 written answers to a specific question on each reading. Questions will be set each week by the instructor, or students may instead be required to structure a commentary or propose their own question on a particular article. The participation grade accumulates throughout the course based on 10 questions/answers.

### **Individual presentation of seminar reading**

**20%**

To occur between week #2 – week # 13 (Jan 23 – Apr 9)

Students will each give a 20-minute in-class presentation on one reading from the course pack.

Grading: professionalism of presentation (5%), written synopsis, one page (5%) and depth of research (10%). An approximation of grade will be given within two weeks of presenting.

### **In-class test**

**15%**

Wk 5 – Feb 11. Content is based on a combination of material covered in class readings, instructor presentations and homework, during the first part of the course, including key vocabulary, modernity, modernism, postmodernity, postmodernism, altermodern and post-truth.

### **Field trip test and art review**

**25%**

There will be a field trip (Week 7) to review an exhibition, providing a tangible and rigorous example of art and theory in practice. A short test will be given based on the theories and art discussed during the trip (5%). Students will then meet in groups as a springboard to writing individual art reviews that identify cogent links between the art, and theory, in practice. Specific readings will be related to this assignment. Two key objectives are

**a)** to convey the content of the art

**b)** to convey theoretical relationships to the art through overall course context via connections to specific readings. This 750 – 1,000 word paper is worth 20% and due in-class Week 9, Mar 10).

### **Research paper, with abstract**

**30%**

1,500 – 2,000 word paper on a topic of the individual's choice, relating to course content and studio interests.

Abstract (5%) due in class by week # 12 - Mar 31 (students are encouraged to submit earlier)

Paper (25%) due by week # 14 - April 14. Full details provided after mid-term. Grade will be given upon course completion.

## **Writing**

The student seminar presentations, exam, and paper will all require writing, to be handed in as hard copies. Grading will be based primarily on the content of answers. Readability, comprehension, spelling and syntax will form part of the grade, particularly in the review and paper. Students with learning difficulties or adaptive software needs should consult the instructor and/or ensure they have an Academic Accommodation Agreement.

To pass the course, students must complete the seminar presentation, in-class test, art review, and final paper and pass three of the four assignments including the presentation and final paper.

If a student misses a required component they should email the instructor as soon as reasonably possible, i.e., within two business days (same timeframe as University “deferred final examinations”).

In the instance of genuinely extenuating circumstances, an alternative deadline will be discussed, and may be agreed subject to instructor approval (see Late Assignments). Missed or deferred assignments should be made up within one-week of the original due date to ensure course continuity, and must be completed within two weeks of the original date. For a missed final paper, if a student doesn't accept a two-week period, the University “Deferral of Term Work” criteria will apply <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

### **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.**

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**

All assignments must be handed in on time. Extensions (with the exception of the final paper) may be granted in extenuating circumstances, e.g., documented illness, family emergency, or similar, but this must be both approved in advance by the instructor, and documented in writing. Late assignments (without an extension) incur penalties of one grade per day, (e.g., an A assignment will become an A-, or a B+ will become a B) excluding weekends and holidays, for a maximum of two weeks. After ten working days, assignments will not be accepted and a failing grade may be assigned for the course.

### **Additional Information**

This course is structured to impart not just key aspects of contemporary art in theory and practice but also to foster writing and critical thinking. Regular attendance and engagement are key. Any work submitted must have your name and student number clearly printed on it. Pages should be numbered and be held with a paper clip or staples: no plastic covers or folders please! And remember, all assignments must be completed on time (see Late Assignment Policy above).

When taking part in field work please show respect and gratitude to members of the public and those persons involved in the activities. Also, note that students are responsible for their own field work transportation and for any associated fees.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and friendly manner, offering encouragement and respect to peers during class activities. Class discussions, particularly relating to student presentations, require thoughtful engagement.

Good luck with your studies and enjoy the class. Remember I am available by office hours and appointment and am here to help you succeed to the best of your potential and input.

### **Course Activities**

There is an organized field trip as part of a graded assignment, scheduled during regular class time Feb 25 - 27. Students are responsible for transportation and for any associated fees.

A course schedule will be given out on the first day of class.

## Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percenta	Gra	G.P.	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

Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight, except if a student or faculty member has compelling circumstances that warrant active cell phone use during class hours. These circumstances must be identified and approved by both faculty and student(s) at the beginning of the semester or class.

Laptops may be used in class for note taking only. Surfing the web is restricted to project work as approved by the instructor. Wireless connections should be disabled at all other times.

Email: class time and office hours are the primary contact periods for instruction and questions. Email may be used for communicating unexpected absences, arranging appointments or general questions. The instructor will endeavor to answer emails within a reasonable period of time (1-3 days) but students should not rely on immediate responses. Course instruction does not occur via email.

## 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.**

## 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.

### **Academic Accommodations**

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 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](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 <https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

## **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](http://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**

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/>

## **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. Stop by SS102, call us at 220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 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.