



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ART**

**Art Theory and Criticism, ART 609.01  
Winter 2021**

**Fridays 14:00-16:45**

**online/synchronous delivery**

**Instructor:** *Trevor Stark*  
**Phone:** *N/A*  
**Email:** *Trevor.stark@ucalgary.ca*  
**Website:** *<https://art.ucalgary.ca/profiles/trevor-stark>*  
**Office Hours:** *Mondays 13:00-15:00, by appointment.*

**Course Description**

Investigation of contemporary global art theory and criticism.

**Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites**

Consent of the Department

**Objectives of the Course**

This graduate seminar is designed as an intensive immersion into theoretical and critical texts that have shaped contemporary discourses on art and culture, from foundational essays to recent interventions.

The seminar aims to provide students with the critical tools to engage in contemporary debates about art - and to bring thought to bear on creative practice in new and challenging ways. Assigned readings should be approached not only as an opportunity to gain competence and expertise, but also as a field for experimentation.

Our core questions will include:

What is the relationship between theory and practice?

How does art mediate between thought and the world?

How do cultural signs produce meaning?

What are the politics of aesthetics and the aesthetics of politics?

What is the place of art within capitalist markets and what is the artwork's relationship to the commodity?

How does art reflect upon the nature of subjectivity, and its social construction in race and gender?

What is the fate of traditional art mediums in our digital age?

The seminar is oriented around reading, discussion, and analytical writing. Its practical objectives will be:

- To gain familiarity with a selection of important theoretical approaches to art and culture.
- To improve competence in reading and engaging with complex texts.
- To hone argumentative and critical writing skills
- To deliver effective oral presentations and engage productively in critical discussion.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

Readings will be provided online in PDF form.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

Online class participation	25%	Weekly participation in online class meetings. Participation will be explained further in our first meeting.
1 Reading response	15%	3-4 pages. Due before class on the date when chosen readings is assigned
1 Reading presentation	20%	15-minute presentation and discussion. During zoom seminar on date of chosen reading.
Final paper prospectus	5%	1-2 pages. Due <u>February 26 before 2pm.</u>
Paper workshop	15%	15-minute presentation and discussion. April 2 and April 9, on zoom.
Final Paper	20%	10-20 pages. Due Friday, April 16 on D2L.

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.

### **Participation**

The primary emphasis of this course is reading, writing, and discussion in our zoom seminar.

Therefore, attendance, punctuality, and active participation in every seminar meeting are the minimum conditions for success in this course. Each student will be evaluated based on their informed, respectful, and regular participation in seminar discussions and activities.

The format for participation in the seminar will be explained in greater depth in our first meeting.

Any absence from seminar must be approved in advance. All lateness and unexcused absences will affect participation marks, and three unexcused absences will result in an automatic failing final grade for the participation component of the course.

### **Note on Reading**

This course requires students to carefully read a selection of texts for every seminar meeting.

Students must come to seminar prepared to discuss assigned readings in detail. Close reading is a primary activity of the class. However, effective reading participation does not solely consist in the mastery of challenging texts: expressing one's doubts, struggles, inspirations, connections, and critiques are equally valid ways to participate in class.

## Writing

Writing is a central component of this class. Graded writing assignments will comprise one reading response, a prospectus, and a final paper.

### 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

Students who miss a required component of the course or submit work late will lose grades.

Late assignments will lose a letter grade per day in penalties (e.g., from A- to B+).

No exceptions will be made for technical problems or corrupted files.

Extensions will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances, with approval required in advance of deadlines.

### Course Activities

Schedule of readings will be provided on the first day of class.

### Grading Method and 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 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**

<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf>

*Enter rules/guidelines about the use of internet and electronic devices during class – this may not be applicable.*

**Portfolios and Assignments**

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

**Academic Accommodations**

The student accommodation policy can be found at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/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 <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>

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 and 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>  
[https://www.ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferred\\_termwork-feb-2020\\_revised.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferred_termwork-feb-2020_revised.pdf)

**F.O.I.P.**

For more information go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre/privacy-policy>

### **Writing and 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 and 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 <https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/campus-security/your-safety/safewalk>

### **Emergency Evacuation**

For more information go to <https://www.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 (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.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/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](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 403-220-5881

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