

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

GRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 699 L01
Topics in Art Theory and Criticism
Winter 2018
Thursdays 15:30-18:20: AB 641

Instructor: *Dr. Trevor Stark*
Office Location: *AB 662*
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Office Hours: *By appointment*

Course Description

Studies in contemporary art theory and criticism.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

Consent of the Department.

Objectives of the Course

This 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

Instructions for each component will be provided on the first day of class.

In order to pass the course as a whole, a passing grade is required for each component of the course.

Class participation	30%
4 Reading responses (graded equally)	20% 3-4 pages each. (Reading responses will be due before class on the day the chosen reading is assigned.)
1 Reading presentation	15% 15-20 minutes. (Presentations will be held at the beginning of class on the day the reading is assigned.)
Final workshop presentation	15% 15-20 minutes. Final day of class.
Final Paper	20% 10-20 pages. Due Thursday April 19 on D2L.

Participation

The primary emphasis of this course is reading and discussion. Therefore, attendance, punctuality, and active participation in every seminar meeting are the minimum conditions for enrollment in this seminar. Each student will be evaluated based on their informed, respectful, and regular participation in seminar discussions and activities.

Any absence from seminar must be approved in advance, and documentation for legitimate absences is required. All lateness and unexcused absences will affect participation marks, and three unexcused absences will result in an automatic failing final grade.

Note on Reading

This course requires graduate 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: doubts, struggles, inspirations, connections, and critiques are equally valid.

Writing

Writing is a central component of this class. Graded writing assignments will comprise 4 responses 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.

Please submit 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.

Late Assignment Policy

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

Extensions will be considered only in the case of exceptional circumstances, with documentation

provided and approval sought in advance of deadlines.

Course Activities

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

The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4	Outstanding
A	4	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.3	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
C	2	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1	
F	0	

Studio Procedures

N.A.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Note-taking on paper and active participation is strongly preferred.

Laptops will be permitted, but it is the student's responsibility to ensure they are not detracting from their participation in discussion.

No cell phone use is permitted in the seminar.

Academic Accommodation

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 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

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

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/>

Models

N/A

Portfolios and Assignments

N/a

Ethics

N/A

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 or 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.