

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Winter Semester 2017
ARTH 3060-01
PUBLIC ART

INSTRUCTOR: Elysia French
TIME: Monday and Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:20pm
LOCATION: MacKinnon, Rm 114
OFFICE: Johnston Hall, Rm 118
PHONE: Ext 53139
EMAIL: TBA
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 11:30am-12:30pm (or by appointment)

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the ideas, designs, and processes of artworks and projects conceptualized to be situated or staged in public spaces. The objective of this course is to identify and investigate the contexts surrounding selected works of public art, which may include media works, sculpture, and landscape installation, from a global perspective.

Prerequisite(s): 7.50 credits including 1.50 credits of Art History

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a selective examination of developments in the public arts from the 1950s to the present. We will critically examine what it means to define and problematize public and private spaces. We will explore a range of artworks that utilize the physical space of the public sphere to underscore the larger political, economic, environmental, and social contexts of their production. This course focuses on critical reading and will explore examples from activism and intervention, installation, performance and participatory arts, sculpture, exhibition practices, and media works. Issues covered in this course are organized thematically; each week we will address a different subject in order to explore the trajectories of public art during the modern and contemporary periods. The literature in this course is drawn from a range of scholars and sources addressing themes inclusive of environmentalism, gender and sexuality, tourism, indigenous art production, monuments and memory, and museum practices.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. Students will have developed their ability to critically engage with ideas surrounding socio-political and environmental aspects of public art production during the modern and contemporary periods.
2. Students will have developed a critical lens through which to discuss public visual art production.
3. Students will have a wider knowledge of the issues and relationships between public and private art practices.
4. Students will have expanded upon their existing knowledge by comparing a selection of scholarly literature with an analysis of public artworks. This will demonstrate their ability to engage in contextual and visual analysis of global scholarship and artwork.

5. Students will be given the opportunity to build upon their existing academic research, writing, and presentation skills, as well as demonstrate their proficiency in generating knowledge through class discussion.

REQUIRED TEXT:

There are no required textbooks or course-packs for this course. All readings will be available online (CourseLink) or through the course instructor, unless otherwise stated. For assigned readings see individual lecture topics. All readings must be read in advance of the class for which they are assigned. Students may find Sylvan Barnet's book *A Short Guide to Writing About Art* useful for assignments.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

This course consists of class lectures, student lead discussions, films, guest lectures, and site-specific art visits. This course is designed primarily as a reading course and is structured around readings and discussion groups, with the intention that we will all participate in a conversation that will build upon the knowledge conveyed in the weekly readings. Students are required to complete all assigned readings and course assignments, as well as attend classes and participate in weekly discussions.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Weekly Participation.....	20%
Group Discussion Leadership.....	20%
Public Art Journal/Review.....	25%
Final Exam.....	35%