

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Fall Semester 2017
ARTH*3520-01
IDEA: ART SINCE 1950



INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kristin Patterson
TIME: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00-5:20 pm.
LOCATION: MacKinnon Building, Rm. 114
OFFICE: TBA
PHONE: Ext.
EMAIL: kristinp@uoguelph.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An analysis of the visual arts of painting, sculpture, photographic media and non-traditional media World War II to the present. Selected artists of North America and Western Europe will be considered, as well as the institutions of the art world.

Prerequisite(s): 10.00 credits including 2.00 credits in Art History

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An artist hands over a set of instructions for wall drawings as a contribution to an exhibition. Another artist undergoes cosmetic surgery as part of a live art performance. In another work an artist directs bulldozers to move tons of earth in order to sculpt the landscape in a remote desert location. Why and how do we consider these actions to be art? What are the political dimensions of such practices? What are the social, economic and/or ecological implications? What are the meanings of such contemporary art?

This course investigates contemporary art produced in Western Europe and North America. In the last fifty years art has taken on new forms, political meanings, and theoretical ideas. For the purpose of understanding key developments this course presents material focused around themes such as identity in art or broad media categories such as performance art. Each class is organized around a central idea from which we will explore a range of practices. Using this format we will examine the major trends and practices of contemporary art and the critical debates that have informed and shaped their reception. Beginning with cultural developments of the postwar period, the course will examine conceptual art, body and performance art, environmental art, feminist art, sexual and ethnic identity politics, activism in art, various aspects of postmodern art and recent trends in art practice and criticism. Individual artists will be located within their social and historical contexts while exploring broader themes such as identity, representation, the boundaries of the art object, and the role of the artist in society.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- ◆ Students will gain exposure to a wide range of contemporary art practices
- ◆ Students will gain an understanding of major themes, artists and issues in contemporary art
- ◆ Introduction and discussion of contemporary art theory and criticism

- ◆ Students will gain an appreciation of the intersections between art and the social, political and cultural events and changes of the last forty years
- ◆ Identify and discuss multiple relationships between contemporary art and broader social and cultural issues as ideology, gender, race, or ethnicity.
- ◆ Students will continue to develop observation and critical assessment skills
- ◆ Students will refine research and writing skills through course assignments

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Midterm, Tuesday, October 3rd.....	20%
Group Presentations, weeks 10-12, as assigned.....	15%
Final Research Paper, due November 26th.....	25%
Class participation and discussion	10%
Final Exam, TBA.....	30%

**Details of all course assignments will be posted on CourseLink>Content>Assignments.

NOTE ON CONTENT:

We will be viewing and discussing controversial material. Many contemporary artworks focus on politics of difference and raise issues around racial and gender identities, oppression and resistance. Some artworks may express viewpoints with which you do not agree. Some contemporary art is made expressly with the intent of provoking new ways of seeing or thinking about art or the world around us. I urge each student to express their views in a respectful manner in class and if for any reason you find the material difficult to deal with please come and see me.

EMAIL POLICY:

I will respond to emails within 48 hours except Saturdays and Sundays and reserve the right to ignore your email if I consider the issue redundant. Please inquire only about the issues that require immediate attention and before you email your professor take a look at the syllabus, the materials posted on Courselink and search on-line to try to find the answers on your own.

VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING POLICY:

Any form of in-class video or audio recording or electronic capturing using cell phones, i-phones, recording to laptop or tape players is strictly prohibited without the instructor's consent and permission. The use of laptops and other similar writing devices in the seminar room and for presentations is allowed. Turn off your cell phone during class.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY:

The penalty for all late assignments, including the final paper, is 5% of the final grade per assignment for each 24 hour period following the deadline to a maximum of five (5) days after which the paper/assignment will no longer be accepted. Students are expected to contact the instructor immediately if she or he requires special consideration for medical or other compassionate reasons.

IN-CLASS COMPUTERS POLICY:

You may be requested to turn off your computer during lectures and I reserve the right to ask you to turn your computer off for the semester if I consider it is a distraction.