

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Winter Semester 2017
FINA*6551
SEMINAR IN ART THEORY AND CRITICISM



INSTRUCTOR: John Kissick
TIME: Wednesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm
LOCATION: Alexander Hall, Rm. 380
OFFICE: Zavitz Hall,
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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 1:00-2:30pm

CALENDAR DESCRIPTIONS:

FINA*6551 Art Theory and Criticism:

Examination of critical issues in the visual arts relevant to studio practice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In Graduate school you are constantly challenged to articulate your position and interests. This seminar class is designed to assist you to build and practice the skills specific to writing and speaking about art, both your own and that of others. Specifically, we will elaborate on a variety of writing strategies and consider their particular viability in light of your own practice.

A significant part of this seminar will be the collective workshoping of texts generated by the class. This will include models such as interviews, short reviews and artist statements. It will also feedback for second year MFA students as they prepare their Thesis Defence papers.

The seminar will also include studio visits, guest artists and critiques.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

- To examine stylistic models for a writing practice.
- To identify and integrate specific critical issues in the visual arts as they relate to contemporary art practice.
- To read critically, write clearly and speak articulately about art; especially, but not only, one's own.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:

We will meet once per week for three hours and will include studio visits.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

PDFs of the readings will be available.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Participation in class. Come prepared to discuss the readings and to participate fully in studio visits.
- Successful completion of written assignments, on time.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

MFA I

- 1. Oral Presentation (to be discussed)20%
- 2. Critical analysis of peer text20%
- 3. One essay review of an artist or show30%
- 4. Participation (including workshop)30%

MFA II

- 1. Critical analysis of peer text20%
- 2. draft of support paper50%
- 3. Participation.....30%

Evaluation will follow Senate guidelines (see Academic Calendar)

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Guelph takes a very serious view of academic misconduct. Included in this category are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission. Students are expected to be familiar with the section on Academic Misconduct in the Undergraduate Calendar, and should be aware that expulsion from the University is a possible penalty. If an instructor suspects that academic misconduct has occurred, that instructor has the right to examine students orally on the content or on any other facet of the submitted work. Moreover, in the College of Arts it is expected that unless a student is explicitly given a collaborative project, all submitted work will have been done independently.

GENERAL PROTOCOLS

- 1. Email is the official route of communication between the University and its students. Students should check their U of G email accounts (“Gryph Mail”) regularly.
- 2. Students should keep copies of all out-of-class assignments.
- 3. Students have the responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Graduate Calendar,

ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified,

ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or refer to the [CSD website](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE STUDENT

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students. Instructors or their delegates have no obligation to contact students outside of the classroom by any means other than e-mail.

WHEN YOU CANNOT MEET A COURSE REQUIREMENT

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. NOTE: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

COPIES OF OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community - faculty, staff, and students - to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors. To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar. For a statement of Students' Academic Responsibilities; also read the full Academic Misconduct Policy. You are also advised to make use of the resources available through the

Learning Commons and to discuss any questions you may have with your course instructor, TA, or academic counsellor.

Instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion, can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. Similarly, students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances should review the university's regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration in the Calendar and discuss their situation with the instructor and/or the program counsellor or other academic counsellor as appropriate.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF TERM ASSIGNMENTS

Be sure to keep paper copies of all out-of-class work. You may be asked to resubmit it at any time. All course assignments must be submitted directly to the instructor (not to office staff) by the deadline indicated. Assignments will be returned during class time or can be picked up directly from the instructor.

REQUESTING DEFERRAL CONSIDERATION

Students who are unable to meet their final course assignments or write a final examination, and who wish to be considered for deferred privilege, must apply directly through their academic program counsellor (for example, students in the B.A. program should go to Room 130 MacKinnon or call Ext. 52140).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS

Students who experience a conflict between a religious obligation and scheduled test, midterm examination, requirements to attend class, or the final examination in a course must submit a request for alternative arrangements to the instructor of the course within two weeks of the distribution of the course outline, according to current university guidelines. Students may submit the request directly to the instructor, or they may consult their program counsellor, who will get in touch with the instructor. The type of accommodation granted will vary according to the nature, weight, and timing of the work for which the accommodation is sought. The instructor will accommodate such requests, provided that they are received within the prescribed time frame, so that students will suffer no academic disadvantage because of a conflict with a religious obligation.

RECORDING OF MATERIALS

Presentations in relation to course work – including lectures – cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter.

