

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Fall Semester 2015
ARTH*2220-01
THE VISUAL ARTS TODAY



INSTRUCTOR: Susan Douglas
TIME: Monday 7:00 – 9:50 pm
LOCATION: McKinnon 114
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 am or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to contemporary visual culture, its current controversies, and its historical roots. The avant-garde movements of the modern period and the impact of new technologies and media will be examined within a rich historical context. Topics will include international exhibitions, selling art, art and popular culture, censorship, and the relation between words and images.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the concepts and theories that connect modern art to the study of media, communication, and culture. It considers how images influence our everyday lives and how visual media and visual technologies play a key role in today's media-based and communication-driven environments. The course covers selected works of modern and contemporary art from 1945 to the present, covering themes such as appropriation and the technological revolution. The course encourages students to think critically about visual culture and communication by examining conventions used in various media forms and texts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Knowledge and critical understanding of key concepts in the art world, and theoretical approaches to the discipline of visual culture
2. Ability to apply learning to describe the relationship between art, visual media, contemporary events
3. Developed skills of visual analysis and communication
4. Appreciation for ambiguity and uncertainty, and understanding of how the limits of knowledge might influence analyses, interpretations and worldviews in the contemporary art world.

TEXTS

- Peter Kalb, *Art since 1980: Charting the Contemporary*. Pearson 2013.
- Marita Sturken and Lisa Cartwright, *Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture*. A/E. Oxford University Press. 2008.

Art Since 1980: Charting the Contemporary is available in the Campus Coop Bookstore and other locations. Copies of Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture will be on Reserve in the UG Library. If you opt to purchase a copy of Practices of Looking ask for the US (2008) edition. Additional readings may be assigned as the term progresses.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

ASSESSMENT	Weight	Due Date
Participation in class + online	20%	Weekly
e-Mid-term exam 1	25%	Week 5
e-Mid term exam 2	25%	Week 10
Take home exam	30%	December 7

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

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 (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, 6 November 2015**. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

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.

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 Student

Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

