

**SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC**  
**Winter Semester 2015**  
**ARTH\*3010-01**  
**CONTEMPORARY CANADIAN ART**



**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Erin Silver  
**TIME:** Monday & Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:20pm  
**LOCATION:** MacKinnon Building, Rm 114  
**OFFICE:** Johnston Hall, Room 118  
**PHONE:** Ext. 53191  
**EMAIL:** esilver@uoguelph.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday, 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

---

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

The wide range of contemporary Canadian visual arts, from painting to new technological media, from “high” culture to punk, will be examined in the context of specifically Canadian social and historical conditions during the modern and post-modern periods.

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This lecture course provides an overview of the issues, ideas and artworks that have shaped contemporary Canadian art since the 1960s. Drawing upon examples from a variety of mediums, we will examine key issues in contemporary Canadian art such as nationalism and Quebec sovereignty, regionalism, multiculturalism, gender identity, and cultural diversity. Influences in contemporary Canadian art such as the artist-run centre movement, feminism, First Nations work, new-media arts, installation, and the landscape tradition are discussed. The texts used in the course expose students to writings by Canadian artists, critics and cultural theorists.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, students will have developed an understanding of the recent history of the politics of representation and the representation of politics in artistic practice in Contemporary Canada. Through readings, discussions and assignments, students will also acquire critical thinking and writing skills. These skills will be developed and demonstrated by discussing the form, content and context of images and contemporary works of art, and by analyzing the role of institutions and the marketplace on the field of Canadian contemporary art.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Readings will be available online, as well as chosen in collaboration with students in the course.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Group Presentations: Ongoing .....	25%
Reading Reflection x 2: Ongoing .....	20%
Research Paper: <b>Due Monday, March 23</b> .....	40%
Participation: Ongoing .....	15%

**Group Presentation (25%).** Beginning Week Three, students will work in groups to select a text related to a theme in Contemporary Canadian Art (as determined in the first week of class), share it with the class via Courselink a week in advance of the presentation date, and deliver a short presentation (**10-15 minutes**) on the text—its key themes, artworks it refers to, questions raised, problems introduced, challenges to, etc. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and resources (including full texts) available on the Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art website (<http://ccca.concordia.ca/>). Students can focus on theoretical texts or on texts focusing on particular artists/artworks/projects. Students are also encouraged to mine the archives of Canadian publications, including *Blackflash*, *Border Crossings*, *C Magazine*, *Canadian Art*, *Fuse*, *Journal of Canadian Art History*, and *Parachute*, most of which are available as e-journals through the library website or in the library periodical stacks.

**Reading Reflection (10% each, 2 required).** Students will produce two (2) **2-page (double-spaced)** reading reflections on articles selected for presentations, summarizing the main arguments of the chosen articles and reflecting on their own perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the articles, as well as make links to other relevant readings and material from class. It is up to the student to decide which two readings they will submit reflections for, but these must be submitted the day the reading is being presented in class.

**Research Paper (40%).** In consultation with the instructor, students will submit a paper (**7-8 pages, double-spaced**) related to any of the themes covered in class and in conjunction with an examination of artwork, artists, exhibitions, or practices covered in class or introducing work not previously covered but of interest to the student and related to the course material. The final paper should have a clear thesis, which should be backed up by independent research conducted by the student, as well as though at least two (2) references to course material.

**Class Participation (15%).** Each week, students are expected to come prepared to discuss the readings and, where applicable, to ask questions to and engage in discussion with guest speakers, the instructor, and each other. It is also expected that students will absorb terminology used in class and employ it in a thoughtful and sensitive way in class discussion. Students are also encouraged to bring in supplemental material the student deems appropriate to the course (this can be an object, an image, a short film/video, a short presentation of an artist’s practice, a website, etc.).