

**SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC**  
**WINTER 2018**  
**AVC 6200**  
***PROSEMINAR: CRITICAL METHODS II***

**Instructor:** Amanda Boetzkes  
**Time:** Wednesdays, 2:30-5:20pm  
**Location:** Alex 286  
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**Office Hours:** Mondays 1:00pm-2:00pm or by appointment  
**Office:** Johnston Hall 125

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar is a multi-disciplinary survey of critical theory. The aim is to consider which bodies of theory have been—and continue to be—lively options for the practice of critical thought in relation to visual culture, especially post-1968. The course explores issues which also possess cultural, social and political relevance, theories which affected all the humanities and social sciences, and themes that are also deeply relevant outside the academy. These include: the institutions and networks of knowledge, identity politics, race, sexuality, gender and class, amongst others.

Prerequisite(s): AVC\*6100

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar will engage students in the history and practice of critical theory, which is to say it will not be a course in how to “apply” methods. Rather, it will address the collision of theory and artwork, and the critical maneuvers that drive both. It will train students to read deeply and develop their own skills in turning their political and ethical investments into rigorous argumentation, while equally emphasizing a keen eye and aesthetic receptivity to art and visual culture.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- \*Students will be develop a facility with the history of critical theory
- \* Students will be trained in effective scholarly argumentation in the field of art history and visual culture
- \* Students will learn to construct plausible methods of analysis in the field of art history and visual culture

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

There is no required textbook for this course. Readings will be posted on CourseLink.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Participation—20%

Students are expected to come to every seminar, be in class on time, and have completed the assigned readings. Be prepared to answer questions and participate in class discussions. In

addition, students are asked to prepare two discussion questions every class. The discussion questions will be handed in at the end of class.

#### Reading Presentations, to be scheduled in class— 2x10% for a total of 20%

Each student will present two of the readings. The presentation should be 20 minutes, and should outline the key arguments of the reading and reflect on them in relation to the themes of the class. In addition to presenting the reading, and raising questions for discussion, the presenter will introduce and discuss an artwork or body of artworks that relates to the reading, and then lead the discussion that follows for the rest of the seminar.

#### Paper Presentation —20%

Students will write a research paper that relates to the topic of the course. Each student will give a 20-25-minute presentation based on that paper. Presentations will take place in the last two seminars of the class, on March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

#### Research Paper —40%

After receiving feedback from the presentation, students will hand in a final research paper of 20-25 pages in length. Papers will be due April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### **STUDENT GUIDELINES**

#### 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.

#### Drop Date

The last date to drop this course without academic penalty is Friday November 6, 2015. For regulations and procedures for dropping courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

#### Copies of out-of-class assignment

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.

### 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.

### 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: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index>