ART NOW

INSTRUCTOR

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I will be available via email from 9 a.m. on Mondays to 5 p.m. on Fridays for student inquiries. During this 5-day period, I will respond to student inquiries within 24 hours. Emails sent over the weekend will be answered no later than the following Monday. If you are having technical difficulty, contact IT support and update me on the situation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Content

This course will introduce the student to the critical issues and major artistic developments of art since 1945. Examining major works of art and the artistic contributions of particular artists who revolutionized art during the second half of the twentieth century, the student will gain a greater understanding of artistic trends and innovations that led aesthetic production in new directions during this period. Among the critical issues that will be considered are the new materials of art, the re-assessment of the art object, intersections of art and life, the shifting contexts of art, the concepts of "modernism" and "postmodernism," the re-definition of "Art," the changing role of the artist, the active spectator, the politicization of art, new technologies, and art as exchange. Students will examine and discuss major artworks and related concepts in light of artist statements, writings by art critics, and prevalent theories of art. The course objective is to provide the student with the historical framework and theoretical tools needed to critically evaluate mid-to-late twentieth century art and the more recent art of the emerging twenty-first century.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: Because many contemporary artists address issues of gender, race, class, religion, sexuality, violence, and politics, as well as different conceptions of beauty, some material viewed and discussed in this course is of a sensitive nature. Keep in mind that one goal of much contemporary art is to challenge viewers to see things from different perspectives or to confront issues that may be uncomfortable, controversial, and / or offensive. Be prepared to encounter and understand the motivations behind these expressions. You are not expected to like all the works you will encounter, but you will be expected to discuss these challenging works and to engage with the difficult issues and topics they raise in a critical and respectful manner. The goal is for you to understand the artists' reasons for creating these works and their art historical significance.

Online Format

This course is offered completely online, offering students a more flexible timeframe to work through the course material and submit assessments. While the learning is fundamentally self-paced, the course is divided into weekly modules that allow for student interaction and provide a more cohesive understanding of the material through scheduled discussions, activities, and monthly tests. Each lesson will have a folder on Blackboard, posted to the Weekly Modules section, which corresponds to that week's lesson. In it, you will find pdf lectures, multimedia resources, readings, and discussions or activities designed to assist students with the comprehension and application of the new concepts presented in that week's lesson.

Each week begins on Monday and ends on Friday. Accommodations have been made, however, for students who would like to use the weekend to get ahead on the workload or to take more time to review for the tests.

- Each weekly module will post Saturday morning at 8AM (except for lecture 1 – see calendar for date)
- The tests will post Thursday at 8AM and close Sunday at 11:59PM
- Discussion topics will post with the module on Saturday at 8AM. Your posts will be due by 11:59PM on Thursday, and you will have until 11:59PM on Sunday to reply to other posts.

    >> *All dates and times are posted on the course schedule*

IMPORTANT NOTE: Weekly modules and discussion topics will be posted a week in advance to provide you with more flexibility to get ahead on course material and to schedule your time more efficiently. Keep in mind, however, that the course is designed for you to work at a certain pace, which is why not all modules post at once and there is a limited time frame for each assessment, discussion, and assignment. Not only does this pace allow for student interaction and working through ideas with your peers, it also assures a better understanding of the concepts by giving you time to digest the information and apply it in a more focused manner. In this course the new material builds directly on what was previously covered. It is essential that you understand the week's material fully before continuing on to a new lecture.

Accessing the Course
This online course is taught via Blackboard Courses (Log into http://mymason.gmu.edu, select the Courses Tab, and the course can be found in your Course List). It is very important that you familiarize yourself with the website immediately, confirming that you have the technology necessary to run the course. See the section on technology requirements at the end of this page. Please email me and tech support immediately, if you have any issues.

BE SURE TO CHECK BLACKBOARD OFTEN. <u>**You are responsible for all information posted on Blackboard.**</u>

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be prepared.** Working online requires dedication and organization. Proper preparation is expected every week. You are expected to log in to the course each week and complete the assignments and activities on or before the due dates.

2. **Plan accordingly.** The due dates and availability of course materials, assignments and examinations are outlined in this syllabus. Please note that in addition to announcing the schedules of these on the syllabus, each weekly module, assignment and examination will be posted well in advance of the due date to allow students sufficient time to complete it. Plan to submit each assignment and examination earlier than its due date in order to avoid last-minute technical glitches or other unforeseen conflicts (loss of internet connection, change in work schedule, etc.) Makeups will not be given.

3. **Check your Masonlive email account regularly.** Students must check their <u>GMU email</u> messages on a *daily* basis for course announcements, which may include reminders, revisions, and updates. You are responsible for all information that is emailed and that is posted to Blackboard.

4. **Respect and abide by the Honor Code.** It is expected that you will familiarize yourself with and adhere to the <u>Honor Code</u>. Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, and/or lie in matters related to academic work.

5. **Stay in communication.** It is essential to communicate any question or problem to me promptly.

ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITY

*** *Students are expected to follow courteous Internet etiquette.* ***

In our online learning community, we must be respectful of one another. Please be aware that innocent remarks can be easily misconstrued. Sarcasm and humor can be easily taken out of context. When communicating, please be positive and diplomatic. I encourage you to learn more about <u>Netiquette</u>.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Hardware
Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM

Access to a fast, reliable broadband Internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL).

For optimum visibility of course material, the recommended screen size is 13-inches or larger.

You will need computer speakers or headphones to listen to any recorded content.

For the amount of computer hard disk space required to take an online course, consider and allow for the space needed to: 1) install the required and recommended software and, 2) save your course assignments.

Software
Web browser (See <u>Blackboard Support</u> for supported web browsers)

Blackboard Courses (Log into http://mymason.gmu.edu, select the Courses Tab)

Adobe Acrobat Reader (<u>free download</u>)

Flash Player (<u>free download</u>)

Microsoft Office or some compatible software that allows you to read MS Office documents

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no textbook to purchase for this course. All assigned readings will be made available on Blackboard as a .pdf document or as a link to an online resource.

ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS

1. Discussions / Short essays

Students are expected to participate in four discussions throughout the semester. These essays are an opportunity to apply the material in both research-based and creative ways. Check the course schedule to see when the discussions will take place. The discussion forum will open on Blackboard when the corresponding weekly module posts at 8 a.m. EST on Saturday morning. All posts must be submitted before midnight EST on Thursday, and responses are due by midnight on the following Sunday. The number of posts and responses will vary among topics. The description box for each discussion will indicate how to post and respond, as well as when the submissions are due. All students must post within the given timeframe. Any late posts will receive a grade of "0."

2. Mini Tests

In addition to the discussions, which focus on one specific topic, there are monthly tests that briefly assess how well you comprehend the week's lectures. These tests are timed, may only be submitted once, and will be available to students at 8 a.m. EST on Thursday. Each test must be completed before 11:59pm EST on Sunday – you have the latter part of the week and the weekend to review the material and take the test. Questions will be drawn from any of the lecture materials (including study guides, documents, videos and lectures), as well as from the readings, web links, discussion postings, and relevant assignments. See the 'Guidelines for Mini Tests' located in the '*Syllabus and Documents*' section of Blackboard for details. Makeup tests will not be given – plan your time accordingly, anticipating the potential for technical difficulties, unexpected emergencies, change in work schedule, and other last-minute conflicts. All tests are required. Failure to take a scheduled test will result in a grade of "0" for that test.

3. Creative / Writing Assignment

Students will work on an assignment, due at semester's end, that requires them to assess the course material as a whole and then develop either a work of art or an exhibition based on a few key elements of their choosing. The final product will be either an actual work of art accompanied by a 1-2 page artist statement, a 2-3 page proposal for a work of art, or a 2-3 page exhibition proposal. Detailed project information will be provided in a separate document later in the semester.

GRADING

Students will be evaluated in the following areas:

5%	Student Bio & Introductory Assignment
15%	Four Discussions / Assignments
60%	Four Mini Tests (15% each)
20%	Creative / Writing Assignment

GRADE SCALE

A+ 100-99	A 93-98	A- 92-90	
B+ 89-87	B 86-83	B- 82-80	
C+ 79-77	C 76-73	C- 72-70	
D+ 69-67	D 66-63	D- 62-60	F 59 & below

* Regardless of numerical score, a grade of A+ will be given as a final course grade only if the student's overall performance in the course is exceptional and exceeds course expectations.

SCHEDULE

- Refer to the week's folder in the Weekly Modules section of Blackboard. There you will find the readings, lectures, study guides, multimedia content, and any other activities or information dealing with that week's lesson.

- All assignments must be submitted no later than 11:59pm EST on the day it is due.

- Refer to page 1 of this document for a listing of the times and days each assignment type is available and due.

Learning Module Topics	Assessments
PART I: INTRODUCTION & ART BEFORE MID-CENTURY	
WEEK 1	
Lecture 0 *Course Welcome* **> Jan 23 – 24** **NOTE**: Contact me immediately if you are experiencing any difficulties in accessing course content.	**Student Introductions** Due 1/25 **Introductory Assignment** Due 1/25 > See the Discussion Board for instructions
Lecture 1 ***Modern Art & the Avant-Garde*** **> Jan 25 – 27**	
WEEK 2	
Lecture 2 ***Surrealism & A New Center for the Avant-Garde*** **> Jan 30 – Feb 3**	**Discussion 1** Posts due 2/2 Replies due 2/5

PART II: EARLY CONTEMPORARY ART

> Gesturalism, Modernism and `60s Abstraction

WEEK 3

Lecture 3

Abstract Expressionism
– Action Painting
– Rothko's Color Spaces

> Feb 6 – 10

WEEK 4

Lecture 4

Investigating Painting
– Greenbergian Modernism
– `60s Abstraction

> Feb 13 – 17

Test 1   Available 2/16   Due 2/19

> A New 'Realism'

WEEK 5

Lecture 5

Neodada
– A Question of Signification
– Experiencing the Everyday

> Feb 20 - 24

WEEK 6

Lecture 6

Pop Art
– Examining the Commodity Icon
– The 'Handmade Readymade'

>Feb 27 – Mar 3

Discussion 2 Posts due 3/2 Replies due 3/5

>   The Material and the Immaterial

WEEK 7

Lecture 7

Minimalism
– Specific Objects
– Notes on Sculpture

> Mar 6 – 10

WEEK 8   SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9

Lecture 8

Postminimalism
– Process and Antiform
– The 'Dematerialization' of Art

> Mar 20 – 24

Test 2   Available 3/23   Due 3/26

PART III: PLURALISM, POSTMODERNISM & RECENT ART

> Pluralism & Postmodernism – An Introduction

WEEK 10

Lecture 9

Pluralism & Postmodernism – introduction

The Death of the Author

> Mar 27 – 31

Discussion 3   Posts due 3/30   Replies due 4/2

> The Body, Identity Politics and Globalization

WEEK 11

Lecture 10

A Return to Figuration

> Apr 3 – 7

WEEK 12

Lecture 11

Identity Politics

> Apr 10 – 14

Test 3   Available 4/13   Due 4/16

> Space, Place, Intervention, and Participatory Art

WEEK 13

Lecture 12 *Installation and Site-Specific Art* *Art in the Public Space* **> Apr 17 – 21**	

WEEK 14

Lecture 13 *Public Intervention* *Participatory Art* **> Apr 24 – 28**	**Discussion 4** Posts due 4/27 Replies due 4/30

> Contemporary Photography and Time-Based Media

WEEK 15

Lecture 14 *Contemporary Photography &* *Time-Based Media* **> May 1 – 5**	**Test 4** Available 5/4 Due 5/7

FINALS WEEK

	Creative / Writing Assignment Due 5/11

IMPORTANT DATES

- **1/30**   **Last day to add classes & to drop classes without financial penalty**
- **2/24**   **Final day to drop classes**
- **3/31**   **Last day for selective withdrawal**

STUDENT SERVICES

University Libraries
University Libraries provides resources for distance students. [See http://library.gmu.edu/distance and http://infoguides.gmu.edu/].

Writing Center
The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. [See http://writingcenter.gmu.edu]. You can now sign up for an Online Writing Lab (OWL) session just like you sign up for a face-to-face session in the Writing Center, which means YOU set the date and time of the appointment! Learn more about the Online Writing Lab (OWL) (found under Online Tutoring http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/tutoring/video-tutoring and http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/tutoring/email-tutoring).

Counseling and Psychological Services
The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See http://caps.gmu.edu].

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the "Buckley Amendment," is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. [See http://registrar.gmu.edu/privacy].

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
Assignments must be written in good standard English and will be graded accordingly. Please contact the following centers for assistance. But be sure to plan in advance; they are very busy, especially as the semester comes near its end.

> The English Language Institute (ELI)   703.993.3660 or http://eli.gmu.edu

> The Writing Center   Located in Robinson Hall A114 & Enterprise Hall 076
>   703.993.1200 or http://writingcenter.gmu.edu

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Each student is responsible for observing academic integrity with regard to all work assigned in this course. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize herself/himself with GMU's Honor Code [http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/]. More information can be found in the university's catalogue, following this link: http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=410&bc=1. Neither plagiarism (presenting someone else's words   or ideas as your own) nor cheating will be tolerated. Also refer to http://masononline.gmu.edu/student-resources/academicintegrity/

STUDENTS NEEDING ACCOMODATIONS
Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities, in accordance with law and university policies. Students requiring accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) -- (703) 993-2474, http://ods.gmu.edu -- to self-identify their needs and attain necessary documentation. After meeting with the Coordinator, please notify me ***well in advance of the date when your special accommodations will be required***.