ARTH 460/599 Transnational Surrealism

Mondays 4:30-7:10
Classroom: Research Hall 201
Professor: Michele Greet
Email: mgreet@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-1250
Office: Robinson Hall B371A
Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00 or by appointment

Course Description: While surrealism originated in Paris in the 1920s, it had enormous transnational impact. This class will begin with an examination of the origins of the surrealist movement in Paris. We will then examine the art produced by core group members, and as well as that of women artists and foreign nationals associated with the movement, with a special focus on surrealist exhibition practice. In the second half of the course we will follow the spread of surrealism to Latin American and the United States.

Prerequisites: ENGL 302/ENGH 302 and 300-level course in the art of 19th- or 20th-century Europe or the Americas; or permission of instructor.

Course Format: This class will consist of seminar-style discussions of assigned readings and critical assessment of the readings led by graduate students. Written assignments will complement in class discussions.

Objectives:
- To comprehend the transnational impact of the surrealist movement and to recognize its diverse manifestations
- To understand how historical and cultural contexts influence how art is understood and interpreted
- To perform specialized research using the ideas discussed in class and to convey the results your research as a class presentation and research paper

Writing Intensive requirement:
This course fulfills all/in part the Writing Intensive requirement in the Art History undergraduate major. It does so through weekly posts to the discussion board (to total about 1500 to 2000 words) and the 2000 to 2500-word research paper. The research paper will be completed through a draft/feedback/revision process.

Research and Scholarship Intensive Course:
This class is designated as a Research and Scholarship Intensive Course, which means that students are given the opportunity to actively participate in the process of scholarship and will make a significant contribution to the creation of a disciplinary-
appropriate product.
In this RS course, students will:

- Engage in scholarly inquiry by reading and assessing primary and secondary art historical sources as well as assessing visual sources
- Perform specialized research resulting in an original scholarly paper.
- Communicate knowledge from an original scholarly project in an oral presentation.

Course Requirements:

Undergraduates:

- **Readings**: Complete all reading **before** the class. If a reading is listed under Feb. 1, for example, it should be completed **before** class on the 1st.

- **Attendance/Participation**: (10% of your grade) Participation refers to both the content of your verbal contributions as well as your attention and response to others’ comments. The GMU catalogue reads: “Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register...instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as *de facto* evidence of non-participation.” To get an A for participation you need to actually contribute to class discussions. Your participation grade will be reduced according to attendance after 2 absences. You will not pass the class if you miss more than 50% of the class sessions no matter how well you do on other assignments.

- **Reading response papers**: (30% of your grade) Specific instructions to be posted on blackboard. You must complete at least 7 out of 10 possible response papers.

- **Paper topic proposal**: (10% of your grade) One page abstract, which summarizes the topic and research question to be investigated in your paper and an annotated bibliography of at least 8-10 sources.

- **Presentation**: (20% of your grade) 20-minute presentation of your research topic to be followed by class discussion (Powerpoint or Prezi). The issues raised in the discussion following your presentation should inform the final revisions to your research paper.

- **Final Research Paper**: (30% of your grade) 8-10 page research paper (with footnotes, bibliography and illustrations), specific assignment to be handed out in class. You will be required to turn in a draft of your paper for review.
Graduate Students:

- **Readings:** Complete all reading before the class. If a reading is listed under September 1, for example, it should be completed before class on the 1st.

- **Attendance/Participation:** (10% of your grade) Participation refers to both the content of your verbal contributions as well as your attention and response to others’ comments. The GMU catalogue reads: “**Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register...instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of non-participation.**” To get an A for participation you need to actually contribute to class discussions. Your participation grade will be reduced according to attendance after 2 absences. You will not pass the class if you miss more than 50% of the class sessions no matter how well you do on other assignments.

- **Lead discussion:** (10% of your grade) Each graduate student will be required to lead a discussion of the assigned readings in one class. Leading the discussion entails presenting a clear and concise outline of one of the assigned articles and preparing 4-5 questions for discussion based on or in response to the readings. The questions should not require a yes/no answer, but rather provoke thoughtful response.

- **Reading response papers:** (20% of your grade) Specific instructions to be posted on blackboard. You must complete at least 8 out of 10 possible response papers.

- **Paper topic proposal:** (10% of your grade) One page abstract, which summarizes the topic and research question to be investigated in your paper and an annotated bibliography of at least 15-20 sources.

- **Presentation:** (20% of your grade) 20-minute presentation of your research topic to be followed by class discussion (Powerpoint or Prezi). The issues raised in the discussion following your presentation should inform the final revisions to your research paper.

- **Final Research Paper:** (30% of your grade) 15-18 page research paper (with footnotes, bibliography and illustrations), specific assignment to be handed out in class.
Grading Standards:
C is the average expected performance of a college Student. To receive a C you must complete all readings and assignments on time, demonstrate a basic knowledge of the material, and write competently (all assignments must be well organized and have correct spelling and grammar). To receive a B your work must be substantially better than average and to receive an A truly exceptional. A work is meticulously researched, well written, and imaginative and goes above and beyond the assignment.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>93-97</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 and lower</td>
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Policies:

- Students are responsible for all material covered in class (announcements, lectures, discussions) whether you are present or not.
- Late assignments are not acceptable. Any work turned in late without a valid written excuse (i.e. doctor’s note) will be graded down one grade per class late. If an assignment is not turned in by the last day of class you will be given a 0 for that assignment. If you are having difficulty completing an assignment please see me well before the assignment is due. If I am aware of your circumstances I am more than willing to work with you.
- Make-up presentations or extensions will be granted only in the case of documented emergencies.
- GMU operates with an Honor Code. It is clearly defined in the catalogue (https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/full-honor-code-document/)
  
  Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s ideas or words as your own without proper acknowledgement) violates the Honor Code. I will notify the Honor Committee concerning possible infractions.
- GMU requires you to activate your GMU e-mail account to receive official campus communications. If you prefer to use another address, you must activate the e-mail forwarder. I will use GMU addresses exclusively.
- Cell phones must be silenced during class.
- Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities, in accordance with law and university policies. Students requiring accommodations must register with the University’s Disability Resource Center 703-993-2474 and produce documentation. Please do this well before the first test or presentation in case alternate arrangements need to be made.
- If English is your second language, I encourage you to turn in a rough draft of your paper at least one week before it is due. If needed I will recommend that you work with the Writing Center. All final papers must be in good standard English.

Other important resources:

- Diversity
  - Mason values diversity; through the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME), Mason seeks to create and sustain inclusive learning environments where all are welcomed, valued, and supported.
- Religious holidays
  - University Life religious holiday calendar http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/ it is the obligation of students, within the first two weeks of the semester, to provide faculty members with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent due to religious observances
- Student privacy
student privacy and student rights under FERPA
http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/

Student services
  o Online Education Services, University Libraries
    http://library.gmu.edu/for/online
  o Writing Center http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/
Counseling and Psychological Services http://caps.gmu.edu/

Important dates:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Last day to add classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Last day to drop classes (50% tuition penalty)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9-15</td>
<td>No class: Spring Break</td>
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<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td><strong>Paper topic proposals due</strong></td>
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<td>Apr. 13</td>
<td><strong>Drafts due (undergraduates)</strong></td>
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<td>Apr. 20</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Apr. 27</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td><strong>Final papers due</strong></td>
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Recommended background reading:


Lecture/Discussion Schedule:
Jan. 27 Introduction

Feb. 3 Surrealist beginnings 1924-1929: Automatism and College
  • **Primary source:** Breton, André, “Manifesto of Surrealism” (1924) excerpts in Fletcher, Valerie J., *Marvelous Objects: Surrealist Sculpture from Paris to New York* (Hirshhorn, 2015), 159-161.
Background:

Feb. 10 Salvador Dalí

Background:

Feb. 17 The Surrealist Object
- **Primary source**: Breton, André, “Crisis of the object,” in Lucy R. Lippard, *Surrealists on Art*, 51-55.

Background:

Feb. 24 Surrealist Primitivism

Background:

Mar. 2 Surrealism and War

Mar. 16 Women, Gender, and the Surrealist Movement
Paper topic proposals due

- Fletcher, Valerie J. “Women as Objects and Exhibitions as Environments” in Surrealist Sculpture, 80-104.

Background:


Mar. 23 Surrealism in the U.S.


Background:


Mar. 30 Surrealism in the U.S. (cont.)

- **Primary source:** Gorky, Arshile, “Garden in Sochi” in Lucy R. Lippard, *Surrealists on Art*, 149-150.

Apr. 6 Latin American Artists and the Surrealist Movement

Background:
- Greet, Michele, “Exploring Surrealism,” in Transatlantic Encounters: Latin American Artists in Paris between the Wars (Yale University Press, 2018), 196-236 (skim; I will go over this material in class).
- Sawin, Surrealism in Exile, 2-73, 104-147.

Apr. 13 International Surrealist Exhibition in Mexico, 1940
- Primary source: Moro, César “Introduction to the International Exposition of Surrealism” in Review: Latin American Literature and Arts, 51, Fall 1995, 7-8.

Background:
- Sawin, Surrealism in Exile, 248-287.

Apr. 20 presentations

Apr. 27 presentations

May 4 presentations

May 8 Final paper due