

## ARTH 374-DL2 : ART NOW Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Heather McGuire  
Time: Synchronous Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30- 11:45 am  
Office Hours: Online Tuesday 9:00-10:00 am and by appointment  
Email: [hmcquir@gmu.edu](mailto:hmcquir@gmu.edu)  
Blackboard: <http://mymason.gmu.edu>

Teaching Assistant: Jaimie Vela [jvela4@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:jvela4@masonlive.gmu.edu)

Hi All - Welcome to ARTH 374. I am thrilled to be teaching my favorite subject to you all this semester - American and European contemporary art history. We'll develop a rich learning community through our exploration of exciting trends in recent art. It's going to be an exciting semester. In order to begin, we need to introduce the course structure and methods.

**Required Course Texts** - This course requires 2 textbooks.



- **American Art Since 1945. London and New York: Thames & Hudson, 2003 ISBN 978-0500203682 (cost @ \$15 new and @ \$5 used)**



- **Art Since 1900: 1945 to the Present: Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism, 2nd or 3rd Edition VOL 2 ISBN 978-0500289532 (cost @ \$25 used)**  
Additional Readings will be posted on Blackboard (see schedule of readings)

### **Blackboard**

The course Syllabus, Schedule, PowerPoints, Assignments and all assessments will be administered via Blackboard <http://blackboard.gmu.edu>. All course work like assessments and assignments must be taken and submitted through Blackboard as it allows both your instructor and teaching assistance access to your work. No work can be submitted outside of Blackboard (do not email your work). Also, **please note: all PowerPoints are only for students enrolled in this ARTH 374-DL2 Spring 2021 course. They are covered by copyright laws and cannot be duplicated, shared, or posted.** Sharing of instructor-created materials, particularly materials relevant to assignments or exams, to public online "study" sites is considered a violation of Mason's Honor Code. For more information, see the Office of Academic Integrity's [summary of information about online study sites](#).

### **Course Information & Methods**

This course examines late twentieth century and twenty-first century art through major movements and approaches, such as institutional critique and re-envisioning the viewer's role. We will analyze the historical, political, social and theoretical contexts surrounding contemporary art production. Each weekly unit involves reading, lectures, PowerPoints, and exercises designed to develop fluency with contemporary art and its ideas. In addition to taking assessments, each student will select a contemporary artist to research and analyze through three of their artworks made after 1980. Students will synthesize their findings in a paper that closely analyzes the concepts and histories around this art production.

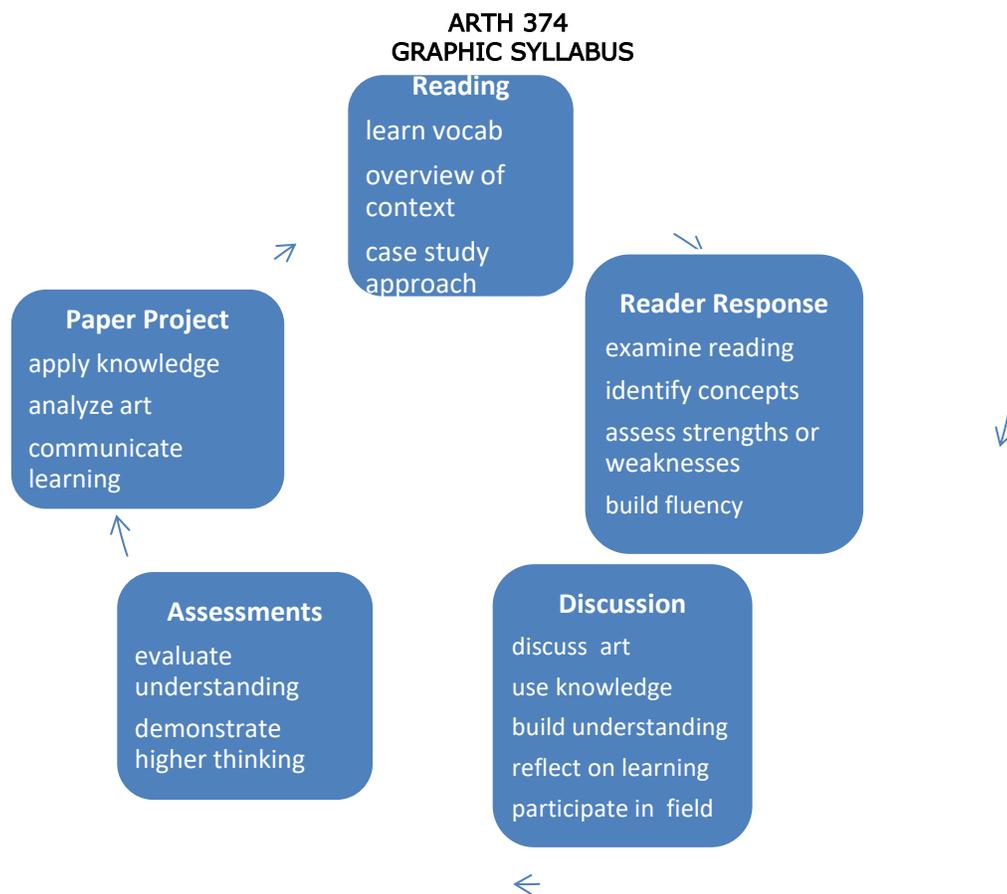
- 1) Readings, Lectures, PowerPoint presentations, and exercises.
- 2) Close analysis of assigned texts and periodic reader response papers.
- 3) Art Analysis Paper.

### **Course Objectives**

To develop complex understandings of contemporary art, its theories and histories. To discern one's interest in art, select an artist to study, closely analyze their art production and report your findings in a paper. We will develop a supportive and constructive online learning community to support active learning in this course. Student choice is important. Your comparison papers provide an opportunity to explore your interests and make these interests visible.

### **Course Expectations**

- 1) Read scholarly art historical writing and learn to assess its strengths and weaknesses.
- 2) Complete all assigned readings before the due date.
- 3) Attend all class meetings.
- 4) Work through the Blackboard site to access and submit course assignments
- 5) Build a learning community that values professional behaviors such as respectful participation in class discussions.
- 6) Submit all work on time.
- 7) Submit all work through Blackboard



### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS / POLICIES**

#### **Communication**

All students are required by the university to actively use and check their GMU e-mail account. I will communicate with the class using Blackboard and your GMU account of record.

- Please attempt to address questions and concerns as soon as they arise.
- I usually reply within 24 hours of receiving your message (sometimes longer over the weekend)

### Attendance Policy

Attendance via Zoom every Tuesday and Thursday morning is essential for this class. This course is designed to have you come in and out of the course several times a week in order to ensure that information is managed in reasonable increments. You are expected to keep up with the course schedule. This course runs on a weekly unit cycle that runs from Monday to Saturday.

Blackboard contains the Schedule of readings and assignments for each weekly unit. Assigned readings should be completed before the scheduled due date. Comprehensive reading requires note-taking. This schedule may be changed if needed, and if changed you will be notified by email.

### Evaluation and Grading Policy

Your grade is based on the following items.

2 Reader Response Papers (15% each)	30%
4 Quizzes (5 % each)	20%
1 Test	20%
Paper Project	20%
Participation	10%

Grade Scale:							
A+	99-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-69
A	93-98	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	0-59
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

**Reader Response Papers (2 X 15 % = 30 %)** These two-page papers will respond to a prompt posted on Blackboard alongside that weekly reading. Take your time and submit a thoughtful, well-written response.

**Quizzes (4 x 5 % = 20%)** These short quizzes are designed to assess your reading comprehension and make sure that you are keeping up with the course reading, lectures, and content.

#### **Test (1 x 20 % of grade)**

This timed assessment will launch in a 24 hr. period. These assessments are designed to make sure that you have read the course material and are watching the videos. It will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice and short essay. The **Test in this class is not open book. Absolutely no outside resources can be used during the Test.** The GMU Academic Integrity policy is strictly enforced in this course through online tools designed to assess student engagement with the test. A study guide will be posted one week before each test. **There are no make-ups for missed tests.**

#### **Paper (20 % of grade)**

Your paper will examine one artist and three works from their art production made after 1980. The 3 page, well-written, and thoughtful paper included visual analysis and some research.

- 1. Select an artist and 3 works made after 1980. Complete and submit a Cover Sheet detailing the three art titles and images.** Document on Blackboard
- 2. Write a 3-page paper** analyzing the formal, contextual, historical and artistic context of this artist and their production. **Submit Paper through Blackboard.**

#### **Participation (10%)**

Each Zoom meeting will combine mini-lectures, videos, and class exercises, both for the whole class and for small, regular break out groups. Be active, cooperative participants in class. We are learning together. To that end, **please keep your cameras on** during class as it makes the zoom meeting much for productive for all. Please ask questions and offer constructive comments. Be prepared to discuss course reading in zoom. To that end, read assignments. Be prepared. Participate actively. Take good notes. If you need lengthy clarification, please contact me during online office hours.

We will frequently be using the internet as a means to enhance our discussions. We will use computers in class. Please be respectful of your peers & instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to this class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and may affect your participation grade.

#### **Late or Missed Assignments Policy:**

**Late work is rarely accepted. All work should be submitted through Blackboard on time.** There are rare exceptions in the case of medical or family emergency, but you must communicate with me within 24 hours of the quiz, test or assignments and provide documentation for the circumstance.

#### **Covid Statement**

Your primary contact to discuss your performance/participation is your instructor and teaching assistant. Decisions about accommodating covid-related issues are at the discretion of the instructor. If a conversation about your overall course load or academic progress would be helpful, please contact your advisor.

#### **Basic Course Technology Requirements**

*Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use the Blackboard learning system, available at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>. Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher. You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.)*

*Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use web-conferencing software (Blackboard Collaborate / Zoom). In addition to the requirements above, students are required to have a device with a functional camera and microphone. In an emergency, students can connect through a telephone call, but video connection is the expected norm.*

#### **Course Materials and Student Privacy**

Videorecordings of class meetings that are shared only with the instructors and students officially enrolled in a class do not violate FERPA or any other privacy expectation.

All course materials posted to Blackboard or other course site are private; by federal law, any materials that identify specific students (via their name, voice, or image) must not be shared with anyone not enrolled in this class.

Videorecordings of class meetings that include audio or visual information from other students are private and must not be shared. Live Video Conference Meetings (e.g. Collaborate or Zoom) that include audio or visual information from other students must be viewed privately and not shared with others in your household.

*Some synchronous meetings in this class will be recorded to provide necessary information for students in this class. Recordings will be stored on Blackboard and will only be accessible to students taking this course during this semester.*

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Important Dates**

Classes Begin: January 25, 2021

Last Day to ADD: February 1, 2021

Final DROP deadline without tuition penalty is: February 12, 2021

Last day for classes: April 30, 2021

Final Exam Period: (there is no final exam in this course)

#### **Academic Integrity**

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. **All work submitted must be your own.** When using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me after reviewing the Mason Honor Code at <http://oai.gmu.edu/>. We are bound by the honor code and pledge not to lie, cheat, steal or plagiarize. As a class, we will count on each

other to uphold academic integrity. **The policy is very clear and will be enforced in this class. If you plagiarize or are caught cheating, you will be reported to the Honor Committee office. If you submit plagiarized work, it will receive an automatic zero.**

Please read the following in-depth explanation - <https://cs.gmu.edu/resources/honor-code/statement-on-academic-integrity/>

*Some kinds of participation in online study sites violate the Mason Honor code: these include accessing exam or quiz questions for this class; accessing exam, quiz, or assignment answers for this class; uploading of any of the instructor's materials or exams; and uploading any of your own answers or finished work. Always consult your syllabus and your professor before using these sites.*

### **Student and Faculty Names and Pronouns**

Gender identity and pronoun use: If you wish, please share your name and gender pronouns with me and how best to address you in class and via email. You may address me as Dr. McGuire or Professor McGuire in email and verbally.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: **1)** make sure this documentation is on file with Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474 (SUB I, Rm. 4205; <http://ds.gmu.edu>) to determine the accommodations you need; and **2)** talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs **by September 4. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Disability Services Spring 2021 Operations**

Please see this a helpful update from the Office of Disability Services for their COVID 19 services and operations here: <https://ds.gmu.edu/response-to-covid-19/>

### **Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence**

George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct speaks to the specifics of Mason's process, the resources, and the options available to students. *As a faculty member and designated "Responsible Employee," I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's [Title IX Coordinator](#) per [university policy 1412](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) (703-380-1434) or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from [Mason's Title IX Coordinator](#) (703-993-8730; [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu)).*

### **Email and Privacy**

Students must use their GMU MasonLive email account to receive important information, including communications related to this class. I will not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address. In communication – please include your name and course section (ARTH 374-DL2)

### **Student conduct in this course**

This class holds and values a diversity of perspectives. In preparation for a professional life, you are expected to conduct yourself in an orderly and cooperative manner. Your behavior should not distract from class learning.

### **Safe Return to Campus**

<https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus/faqs-safe-return>

All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to take Safe Return to Campus Training prior to visiting campus. Training is available in Blackboard (<https://mymason.gmu.edu>). Students are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage ([www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-plan](http://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-plan)). Similarly, all students in face-to-face and hybrid courses must also complete the Mason COVID Health Check daily, seven days a week. The COVID Health Check system uses a color code system and

students will receive either a Green, Yellow, or Red email response. Only students who receive a "green" notification are permitted to attend courses with a face-to-face component. If you suspect that you are sick or have been directed to self-isolate, please quarantine or get testing. Faculty are allowed to ask you to show them that you have received a Green email and are thereby permitted to be in class.

**Student Support Resources page**

<https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/knowning-mason-students/student-support-resources-on-campus/>

**Final Note**

Please sign and turn in this page, acknowledging that you understand and agree to this syllabus. Please turn this in by February 2, 2021

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PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(CLEARLY PRINT YOUR NAME IN THE SPACE PROVIDED)

- I have read the syllabus for ARTH 374-DL2, Spring 2021.
- I understand the course expectations and policies.
- I have addressed all my issues/concerns regarding the syllabus & the course with Dr. McGuire.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_