

FA 48R Selected Topics in Contemporary Art

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A- Course Description

This class is an introduction to main currents in art production since 1960s.

Students are introduced to as many images and terms associated with contemporary art as possible.

There will be weekly readings of artists' statements. We will focus on pioneering artists with an in-depth discussion of their works. Discussion of these works over the course of the semester will complement the weekly theoretical readings. Analysis of current exhibitions will support group discussions.

This course emphasizes exploration and discussion while becoming familiar with some of the important debates on modern and postmodern art and art production.

B- Course requirements and Grading

%30 Regular attendance and class participation

%30 Midterm

%40 Final exam

C- Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance is mandatory and will be monitored. You are expected to arrive on time, having read the assigned readings for that class and prepared to participate in class discussions. Since this is a discussion-oriented class, your participation is very important.

D- Midterm

The midterm is composed of critical response essays

E- Final Exam

The final exam date is TBA.

During the exam you will answer 4 short essay questions. Each question is 25 points.

Visiting artists and additional museum visits will be announced online.

Week 1 Introduction to the Class and the Dialectic of the Avant-Garde

Week 2 An Expanded Term; Conceptual Art

"Untitled Statement"; Eva Hesse, "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art"; Sol LeWitt, "Sentences on Conceptual Art"; Sol LeWitt,

Suggested Additional Reading: "Art after Philosophy"; Joseph Kosuth,

Week 3 Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art

"Jackson Pollock", Elizabeth Frank, "The Romantics Were Prompted", Mark Rothko, "Andy Warhol Interview" with Gene Swenson

Week 4 Happening and Fluxus

"Untitled Guidelines for Happenings"; Allan Kaprow, "To the Wesleyan People"; Yoko Ono, "An Autobiographical Statement"; John Cage

Week 5 More FLUXUS and An Introduction to Minimalism

"I am Searching for Field Character"; Joseph Beuys, "In case something different happens", David Levi Strauss

"Art as art"; Ad Reinhardt, "Questions to Stella and Judd"; Interview by Bruce Glaser, edited by Lucy R. Lippard

Suggested Additional Reading: "Agnes Martin: On and Off the Grid"; Anna C. Chave

Week 6 TBA Museum Visit

Week 7 Body and Performance Art

"Marina Abramovic Interview"; The 20th Century Performance Reader; Huxley and Witts

Suggested Additional Reading: Foreword- Performance Art from Futurism to the Present; Goldberg

Week 8 Art and Nature- Art and the City- Institutional Critique

"Cultural Confinement"; Robert Smithson,

Suggested Additional Reading: "Line Describing a Curb; Asymptotes about VALIE EXPORT, the new urbanism and contemporary art"; Marina Vishmidt, "Sculpture in the Expanded Field"; Rosalind Krauss

Week 9 Participation in Art

Artforum: "The Social Turn: Collaboration and its Discontents"; Claire Bishop

Suggested Additional Reading: excerpt from "Relational Aesthetics" Nicolas Bourriaud

Week 10 - Museum visit- TBA

Week 11 Art and Activism

“Art and Propaganda”; William Pickens, “Strategic Diagram for Non-hierarchical Participatory Radical Democracy”; Ahmet Öğüt,

Suggested Additional Reading: “Ideology, Confrontation and Political Self-Awareness”; Adrian Piper, Artforum: from “The Artist and Politics: a symposium”,

Week 12 Art and Censorship

Case Studies

Week 13 Feminist Art

“Women’s Art: A Manifesto”; VALIE EXPORT, “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?”; Linda Nochlin

Week 14 The influence of Graffiti, Cartoon and related neo-pop sources in 2D work, 80s into the 21st century

“American Graffiti”; Jeff Chang

Screening- “Exit through the Gift Shop”; Banksy