ARTH 2313: Twentieth-Century Art II
University of Texas at El Paso
Summer II session, 2021

CRN: 34826
Location: online; mandatory synchronous virtual meeting on July 6 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.
Professor: Dr. Melissa Warak (she/her; please call me Dr. or Professor)
Email: mcwarak@utep.edu
Student/office hours (online): Thursdays, 1:00 to 2:00 pm, via Zoom. Sign up for meetings here: https://calendly.com/warakofficehours/15min. See Course Structure section for details.

Please email Dr. Warak ASAP if you are unable to complete course requirements or need temporary accommodations due to COVID-19.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY
All materials for the course, including Powerpoints and course texts, will be uploaded to the course Blackboard page. All students will need a Zoom account associated with their UTEP email address; go here to sign up: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/comm_zoom.html. Students will need a strong wifi signal or internet connection and a computer (either a laptop or a desktop) in order to study the images on a larger screen. Google Chrome is the recommended browser for Blackboard. UTEP students may check out laptops and wifi hot spots from the UTEP library. See this link for more information: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc_eqcheckout.html

ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR
Dr. Melissa Warak is Assistant Professor of Art History and specializes in the relationship of music and sound to art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Dr. Warak earned a B.A. in English literature and art history from Vanderbilt University, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin. Her current research focuses on the ways that visual artists from the mid-fifties to late sixties employed musical models in their work and she is writing a book about contemporary sound art. Other research interests include the history of abstraction, spirituality in modern and contemporary art, science and technology in modern and contemporary art, disability and art, and astronomy in art. Her research has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, the Getty Research Institute, the Royal Music Association of the United Kingdom, The Menil Collection in Houston, the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Kress Foundation, the Yale University Art Galleries, and the Tate Modern, among others.
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a history of art after 1945, periods generally referred to as postwar, postmodern, and contemporary art. Media to be studied include photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, performance, lands arts, video, installation, ceramics, fiber, and new media. As a content advisory, students should be aware that some of the images we will discuss in class deal frankly with racism, sexism, politics, violence, war, religion, the AIDS epidemic, and sexual trauma, among other difficult themes. They are not shown for shock value. These works are intended to challenge the comfort level of the viewer and discussion about them is important. Speaking to how such images make you feel is vital, as this deepens our understanding of their power. If you have concerns about certain content, email Dr. Warak so we can discuss how to approach it in your studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
During this course, students will develop their understanding of the history of art after 1945 and acquire skills essential to the professional art historian. These include the following:

1. Conducting visual analysis, scholarly writing, research in primary and secondary texts, understanding multidisciplinary research methodologies, and writing formal analysis and interpretive texts.
2. Analyzing and critically evaluating ideas and arguments.
3. Gaining knowledge of the terminology, trends, and methodologies used to study postwar, postmodern, and contemporary art.
4. Applying course material in terms of improving aesthetic appreciation, problem solving, broader cultural literacy, and facilitating further coursework in the arts and humanities.

COURSE STRUCTURE
During a face-to-face summer course, you would devote two hours per day to attending class, not including writing assignments, completing course readings, and preparing for exams. Keep this in mind as you plan your schedule. Go through the schedule and update your calendars or planners with all due dates at the beginning of the course; this will help keep you organized and on track. This course is asynchronous, so we will not meet online except for the first day.

1) MODULES. Each week of the course will be compiled into a module; there are four for the course. Under the Blackboard tab titled “Modules” you will find all the materials you need for each week, including the files for the readings, links to exams, video links, and spaces to turn in assignments. Students will learn content from video lectures and associated Powerpoints. The lecture videos are posted as YouTube videos to Blackboard within each module so that students may access them easily at any time; you should set a schedule for watching them and taking notes. The schedule at the end of this document details what is due each week. All materials may be turned in at 11:59 pm on days that they are due.

2) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS. Students are asked to complete an introductory questionnaire and will write two short papers (each circa three to four pages in length). There will be an assignment sheet for each one. You should submit the papers via the SafeAssign links in the week’s course module.

3) EXAMS. We will have an exam at the end of each week. Those exams will be open note; however, they will be timed, so you will want to know your material. See the exams policy below for details.
4) EMAIL. Dr. Warak will email the class regularly using the UTEP email addresses on file and will try to respond to student emails within 24 hours. Please remember to treat emails as professional correspondence. Look out for a longer email at the beginning of each week, but make sure to check your UTEP email every weekday in case there are critical updates to assignments or due dates. Any course announcements on Blackboard will also be emailed to students.

5) GRADEBOOK. All course grades will be updated on the Gradebook on Blackboard. Students should keep track of their progress through the course.

6) STUDENT HOURS. Students hours (also called office hours) are a time for students to get to know their professor, talk about the course content in further depth, discuss concerns or grades, or to learn more about their field of study or graduate study. Office hours are for you, so take advantage whenever you need these kinds of interactions. Dr. Warak will hold office hours virtually from 1:00 to 2:00 pm on Thursdays via Zoom video conferencing. To make an appointment for office hours, go here: https://calendly.com/warakofficehours/15min. Sign up for as many fifteen-minute time slots as you need. This will send an email to both of us to confirm, as well as a Zoom meeting link. However, email me if you would like to create an appointment outside of my office hours, or would prefer to speak on the telephone.

GRADING POLICY
This course will be graded on a scale of 500 points.

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 6 attendance</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Questionnaire</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>95</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>95</td>
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<td>Exam 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>60</td>
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Therefore, here is the point breakdown for final course grades:

448 – 500 points: A
397 – 447 points: B
347 – 396 points: C
297 – 346 points: D
000 – 296 points: F

TEXTS / READINGS
We do not have a textbook for this course. Readings will be posted as PDFs to each weekly module in Blackboard. All readings for the week are eligible for the exams.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONNAIRE
I ask that students fill out a questionnaire the first week of classes. It helps me understand student backgrounds, interests, and concerns. It is a completion grade worth five points, and late questionnaires will not be accepted.
CONTENT VIDEOS
Our class content videos take the place of face-to-face lecture. Completing the readings will not substitute for studying the videos. I will post links to several recorded content videos in each module on Blackboard; you will need a YouTube account to access some of them with restricted content. Most of them are under 10 minutes in length, but some are a bit longer. I include text as well, particularly at the beginning of a new style or to introduce a section of the class. You will be able to turn on captions for each video in YouTube if you wish; they are ADA compliant. You need to create a schedule for watching them in an undistracted space and should plan to take notes on these videos while you watch them. The videos will include vocabulary terms highlighted in yellow (or another color) and I always identify works by the author’s last name, title of the work, and the date. Note that there are times when I ask you to pause a video and watch another video (link provided). The videos are best viewed on a computer screen or larger (rather than a phone screen). Many students find it helpful to wear headphones while watching and taking notes in order to avoid distraction.

TAKING NOTES ON THE VIDEOS
It is important that students take notes on the videos for the exams; for this reason, I also post the Powerpoints for each week so that you may spend more time with the images. Though we do not have slide lists for each week, you will see that I do spend more time on some works of art and artists than others, and I recommend you focus on those works when studying. You may want to have the Powerpoint open while you watch the videos (and you can even take notes in Powerpoint if that suits you). Using bullet points will help you write down more information.

EXAM POLICY AND STRUCTURE
Think of the exams as a way to show off what you have learned. Exams will be taken online through Blackboard and are fully open note/open book; however, students should answer the questions in their own words and voice and use examples from the video lectures or readings in order to demonstrate how they have synthesized class materials. Exams are based primarily on content from the videos, but may ask students to discuss how a particular reading (or readings) illuminate an artwork. Some questions will require critical thinking. Question types may include any of the following: true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, compare/contrast between two works of art, short answer (2-3 sentences), long answer (2 paragraphs), or essay questions (3-4 paragraphs). Exams are timed at two hours and students can take them over a period of two days. Make sure that you are in a comfortable space with room to spread out your materials and a good internet signal before beginning an exam. The UTEP library is a good option. We will review in the optional discussion sections. Each exam covers only material from that module; none of the exams are cumulative, including the last exam. Exams will close promptly at the due time posted.

SAFEASSIGN
All written documents will be submitted through SafeAssign links in their respective modules on Blackboard. Students should submit the file type indicated in the assignments (.docx or .pdf). Keep in mind that uploading a document to SafeAssign sometimes takes several minutes, so do not wait until the minute the document is due to begin the upload. Give yourself a little buffer time in case there is
an upload error. Be aware that SafeAssign is also a plagiarism detection tool, but you can use this to your advantage by pulling an Originality Report after you upload your papers. You may upload all papers twice and only the second version will be graded, including any penalties. This may help you find research that you have forgotten to cite with a footnote. SafeAssign provides me with a time stamp for each submission, as well as an Originality Report.

**PAPER FORMATTING AND WRITING HELP**

Students may want to reach out to a librarian at the UTEP library for research help. Ms. Joy Urbina, Information Literacy Librarian, specializes in helping students navigate appropriate resources for research. Her email is jurbina4@utep.edu and you may schedule an appointment with her by following this link: [http://utep.libcal.com/appointments/joy](http://utep.libcal.com/appointments/joy). Students who are concerned about the quality of their writing should contact the University Writing Center and make an appointment well before the paper’s deadline: [https://www.utep.edu/uwc/](https://www.utep.edu/uwc/).

***COURSE POLICIES***

**COPYRIGHT OF THIS COURSE**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated or shared with other students or websites.

**FERPA AND EMAIL POLICY**

This course adheres to Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations ([https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html)). All course correspondence from Dr. Warak will take place via Blackboard’s email function. I will never post identifiable information about students, and I will not discuss specifics of your student performance with anyone without your permission as documented by FERPA standards. Please note that, due to FERPA regulations, I cannot email with students about grade numbers specifically. This is because email is considered an insecure medium and may be hacked. If you have a question or concern about letter grades or numbers, please make an office hours appointment. However, you may email more generally about improving in the course.

**COURSE DROP POLICY**

Online learning requires time and self-structuring and it is easy to get behind in online courses for a variety of reasons. Any student who misses work from one or more modules and has not contacted Dr. Warak about the situation will be automatically dropped from the course.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic dishonesty or cheating will result in failure in this course. Don’t even waste your time trying it; expend your energy on doing the work instead. Dr. Warak believes that any student who has to cheat in order to pass a class does not deserve a degree from UTEP because they haven’t earned it honestly. All students are expected to engage in their academic pursuits in a professional manner and to maintain honesty and integrity. Sometimes, students commit academic dishonesty without knowing it, but ignorance is not an excuse. All students are responsible for knowing the requirements of academic honesty set forth by UTEP. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty. See the UTEP policy on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty:
POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities provided that they are registered with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) and procure the proper documentation: http://sa.utep.edu/cass (telephone: 915-747-5148). Students with documented disabilities should make sure that the professor receives the appropriate paperwork from CASS within the first week of class. Please note that CASS is available to help students with any disabilities, documented illness (including anxiety, depression, and PTSD), and in the case of short-term disability (broken bones, etc.).
Module 1 July 6 to July 11

**Mandatory Introduction and Syllabus Review** on Tuesday, July 6 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. This is the only time I ask you all to log in at the same time so that I may go over the syllabus with you. Log in through the Zoom Meetings tab on Blackboard. Your attendance at this meeting is worth 10 points. Contact Dr. Warak before the meeting if you cannot log in at 1:00 pm that day.

**Watch content videos on the following topics (see Blackboard module for the video URLs):**
- **For background:**
  - Art History, Criticism, and Classifications
  - Modes of Art-Making
  - Brief refresher on Modernism (works of art not on exam, but vocabulary terms may be. You can use this for reference for works of art in our course that refer back to Modernist styles)
- **Exam 1 material starts here:**
  - Abstract Expressionism (Gestural, Color Field, and Second Generation)
  - Art Informel (Tachisme, Lyrical Abstraction, Art Brut, CoBrA)
  - Kinetic Art
  - Gutai
  - Happenings

**Read the following PDFs:**
- Jean Dubuffet, “Anti-Cultural Positions”
- Yoshihara Jiro, “Gutai Art Manifesto”

**Complete and submit the introductory questionnaire.**
Due on Wednesday, July 7 at 11:59 pm.
The document and SafeAssign submission link are located in Module 1. This should take you less than
fifteen minutes.

**Begin working on Paper 1.** The assignment is available in the Paper Assignments tab on Blackboard.

**Take Exam 1.**
Due on Saturday, July 10 at 11:59 pm. It will be available starting at 6:00 am on Friday, July 9.

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**Module 2** July 12 to July 18

Watch content videos on the following topics (see Blackboard module for the video URLs):
Fluxus
Neo-Dada
Nouveau Réalisme
Postwar Italian Art
Arte Povera
Postpainterly Abstraction
Op Art
Minimalism
Pop Art
Hyperrealism

**Read the following PDFs:**
Nuit Banai, “Introduction: Klein the Paradox,” from *Yves Klein*
Gerard Silk, “Myths and Meanings in Piero Manzoni’s *Merda d’Artista*”
Simon Morley, “Bridget Riley, London”
Kenneth Baker, chapter four of *Minimalism: Art of Circumstance*
Christin Mamiya, “The Rapid Success Story: The Establishment of Pop Art” from *Pop Art and Consumer Culture*
Colton Valentine, “Duane Hanson’s Hyperrealistic Sculptures Challenge the Meaning of ‘Average American’”

**Submit Paper 1**
Due on Thursday, July 15 by 11:59 pm. See the assignment prompt in the Paper Assignments tab on Blackboard. Turn in your paper via the SafeAssign link labeled “Paper 1,” located in Module 2.

**Take Exam 2.**
Due on Saturday, July 17 at 11:59 pm. It will be available starting at 6:00 am on Friday, July 16.
Module 3    July 19 to July 25

Watch content videos on the following topics (see Blackboard module for the video URLs):
Conceptual Art
Land Art
Neo-Expressionism and Postmodernism
Feminist Art
African American Art
Postwar to Contemporary Latin American Art
Chicanx Art

Read the following PDFs:
Sol LeWitt, “Sentences on Conceptual Art”
Robert Smithson, “A Provisional Theory of Non-Sites”
Shifra Goldman, “Bridging Troubled Borders: A Binational Problem”
John Yau, “Please Wait By the Coatroom”
Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw, “Censorship and Reception,” from Seeing the Unspeakable: The Art of Kara Walker

Begin working on Paper 2. The assignment is available in the Paper Assignments tab on Blackboard.

Take Exam 3.
Due on Saturday, July 24 at 11:59 pm. It will be available starting at 6:00 am on Friday, July 23.

Module 4    July 26 to August 3

Watch content videos on the following topics (see Blackboard module for the video URLs):
Postmodern Photography
The NEA and the Culture Wars
The Young British Artists (YBAs)
Street Art
Temporarily Contemporary

Read the following PDFs:
Richard Bolton, selections from Culture Wars
Peter Salib, “The Law of Banksy: Who Owns Street Art?”
Petra Lange-Berndt, “Replication and Decay in Damien Hirst’s Natural History”
Terry Smith, “Going Global: Selling Contemporary Art” in What Is Contemporary Art?

Submit Paper 2.
Due on Tuesday, July 27 at 11:59 pm. See the assignment prompt in the Paper Assignments tab on Blackboard. Turn in your paper via the SafeAssign link labeled “Paper 2” in Module 4.

Take Exam 4.
Due on Tuesday, August 3 at 11:59 pm. It will be available starting at 6:00 am that day.