ARTh 2303: Twentieth-Century Art I

University of Texas at El Paso

Fall 2019

CRN: 18359
Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays / Thursdays, 12:00-1:20 p.m.
Classroom: Fox Fine Arts A458 (4th floor)
Professor: Dr. Warak
Email: mcwarak@utep.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:00-4:00, and by appointment
Office: Fox Fine Arts A454
Office Phone: (915) 747-7849 (during office hours)

COURSE DOCUMENTS
All documents for the course, including Powerpoints and course texts, will be uploaded to the course Blackboard page.

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, an M.A. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin, and a 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. Aside from musical and sound art, her research interests include the history of abstraction, spirituality in modern and contemporary art, science and technology in modern and contemporary 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, and the Yale University Art Galleries, among others.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will provide an examination of avant-garde traditions in modern art in Europe and the United States through a critical engagement with ideas of modernism and methodologies from 1850 to just after World War II. Media to be studied include photography, painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and some film.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:
1. Understand the history and theories of modern art, particularly with regards to visual and material culture from 1850 to 1945.
2. Conduct visual analysis, scholarly writing, research in primary and secondary texts, understand multidisciplinary research methodologies, and write formal analysis and interpretive assignments.
3. Apply course material in terms of improving aesthetic appreciation, problem solving, broader cultural literacy, and facilitate further coursework in the arts and humanities.

TEXT FOR CLASS
Readings will be posted as PDFs to Blackboard under the “Readings” tab and are designated with a (PDF) in the course schedule. Readings for each day should be completed before class begins. All readings are eligible for the exams, even if students are not quizzed over them. The optional course text is Herschel Chipp et al, Theories of

GRADING POLICY
This course will have three exams. Image lists for each exam will be circulated to students in advance of each of the three course units and a Powerpoint of all of the images will be posted to Blackboard. Exams may consist of a combination of fill-in-the-blank questions, single slide discussions, double slide comparisons, and essay questions about works of art and course readings. The exams are not cumulative.

We will have six reading quizzes (worth 10 points each) throughout the semester. There will be no makeup quizzes, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. We will also have a practice comparison quiz, where we will do a sample side-by-side comparison of works; this type of question will show up on the exams.

Students will write one paper.

Lastly, students will receive points for in-class participation. Participation points will be earned in two parts: Participation I for the first half of the semester and Participation II for the second half. A good rule of thumb is to try to contribute at least one thing to each class session.

This course will be graded on a scale of 500 points (note that Blackboard shows a potential 510 points due to the dropped quiz grade).

Reading Quizzes (6): 50 points
Practice Quiz: 25 points
Participation I: 15 points
Participation II: 20 points
Exam 1: 90 points
Exam 2: 100 points
Exam 3: 100 points
Paper: 100 points

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

TAKING NOTES IN CLASS
Exam material will come from ideas discussed in class; use the readings as supplements to the lectures and discussions. Completing the readings will not take the place of attendance and participation in class. It is critical that students take notes in class. Think of the exams as a way to show off what you have learned. I recommend bringing a notebook designated just for this course. Using bullet points will help you write down more information. Vocabulary and important terms will be written on the Powerpoint presentation slides and you should pay special attention to these terms and the works of art where they may be applicable. Basic identifying information for each work will also be provided on the Powerpoints (artist name, title, date). It is a good idea to date your notes so you know what we covered each day.
READING QUIZZES
Students will take the ten-minute reading quizzes at the beginning of class. Be sure to arrive to class on time. There are no makeup quizzes. The quizzes may be on one or all of the readings assigned for a given day and will likely be short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false questions. To prepare for these, you should make sure to read the text carefully and take notes on them in your notebook (this will also help with the exams). You may find it useful to skim the readings once for the larger issues at stake and then take notes during a second more careful reading. Be sure that you can identify the author’s arguments and the primary evidence used to support them. As you read, think critically about what might be useful about the texts for our course topic.

PAPER FORMATTING AND WRITING HELP
All papers should be uploaded to SafeAssign (via Blackboard) by the due date. Note that papers in this course will use the formats of the Chicago Manual of Style: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org). Students who are concerned about the quality of their writing should contact the Writing Center and make an appointment well before the deadline: [http://academics.utep.edu/writingcenter/](http://academics.utep.edu/writingcenter/)

***COURSE POLICIES***

ATTENDANCE POLICY (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)
Policy in short:
Allowed absences (including illness) without penalty = 3 absences
Tardies = $\frac{1}{2}$ absence
Automatic drop = 6 absences
Attendance bonus = 10 points

Policy in detail:
Class attendance is a requirement and use of the full class period is expected. An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each lecture; make sure you (and only you) sign it every day. Students should never sign the attendance sheet for anyone else or ask anyone to sign for them.

You are allowed three absences for any reason without grading consequences. It is up to your discretion how you use these, including for illness, and you do not need to notify me in advance except in the case of a religious holy day (see below). More than three absences from class will result in a lowering of your overall grade by twenty points per absence (remember that this class is graded on a scale of 500 points). In the case of an illness or emergency that causes you to miss more than three consecutive class days, you will want to drop the course. Students who are more than five minutes late or who leave early without permission will be given half credit for attendance. Tardies / half credits will figure into the absence count. Six absences will result in an automatic drop from the course; this includes tardies. Students with two or more absences by the census date will be dropped. That said, students with perfect attendance will receive an attendance bonus of ten points to the final course grade (no exceptions; attendance must be 100%).

Students are responsible for acquiring notes and announcements made during missed classes, so make a friend and exchange contact information. Dr. Warak will keep a running tally of absences in a column on the Gradebook section of Blackboard.

EMAIL POLICY
All course correspondence from me will take place via Blackboard’s email function. Make sure that you receive emails through Blackboard and that you have a current email address on file. Please note that, due to FERPA regulations, I will not email with students about grades. If you have a question or concern about a grade, please visit
office hours or make an appointment. Additionally, if you have a question that requires a long answer, I may ask you to come see me in person to save time. I do not look over papers by email; come to office hours or make an appointment. Lastly, please remember that emails are considered a form of professional correspondence and a little courtesy goes a long way.

**LAPTOPS, TABLETS, AND PHONES**

*Students may not use computers and other electronic devices during class.* It is important that students focus their attention on the lectures and projected images without distractions and that they take careful and detailed notes. Cell phones and tablets should be silent and kept out of sight. Their bright lights are very distracting in a dark classroom. You will be reprimanded if you are caught using your phone in the classroom; repeat offenses will result in being asked to leave class with an absence penalty. If a cell phone or an Apple Watch is in any way visible during an examination, that student will automatically fail the exam; for this reason, students may be asked to bring their phones to the front of the classroom during exams and retrieve the phone upon turning in the exam.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Please be respectful of other students in the classroom. The classroom door will be open for five minutes after class begins; after that, tardies will be given. Inappropriate behavior includes coming late or leaving early, using phones or electronic devices for any reason, passing notes, excessive whispering with friends, and packing bags before class is over. Use the restroom BEFORE class, as entering or leaving the room is very distracting. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with UTEP policy. You may bring food and drinks, but the drinks must have a sealable lid. **A note on bags:** please try to fit your bag under your chair, or use the shelves in the classroom to keep the floor tidy.

**MAKE-UP POLICY**

The paper assignment sheet explains a late work policy. There are no makeup exams or quizzes, except in extreme circumstances documented with the Dean of Students. Plan your semester accordingly.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic dishonesty or cheating will result in failure in this course. All students are expected to engage in their academic pursuits in a professional manner and to maintain honesty and integrity. 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: [http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/](http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/)

**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](http://sa.utep.edu/cass) and 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.).

**POLICY FOR STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...” See your professor at least a week in advance if you intend to miss class in observance of a religious holy day.