CRN: 21572
Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:20 pm.
Location: Fox Fine Arts A458 (fourth floor)
Professor: Dr. Melissa Warak (she/her; please call me Dr. or Professor)
Email: mcwarak@utep.edu
Student/office hours: Thursdays, 3:00-5:00 pm. Until further notice, these will be held via Zoom or by telephone. Sign up for online office hour meetings here: https://calendly.com/warakofficehours/15min.
Office Phone: (915) 747-7849 (during office hours)

Please email Dr. Warak ASAP if you are unable to complete course requirements or need temporary accommodations due to COVID-19. Dr. Warak reserves the right to move the course online for temporary periods of time in the case of COVID exposure in the classroom.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center provides COVID-19 testing; additionally, UTEP runs a larger testing site with the city of El Paso on campus. For more information, go to https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/testing/.

WEARING MASKS IN CLASS: I cannot mandate that you wear a mask while in class, but I request that you do so given the highly contagious nature of the Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19. I have a young child who is not eligible for vaccinations at home, and I have some risk due to a health condition. Many vaccinated persons are currently experiencing high rates of breakthrough infections; for this reason the CDC recommends that we ALL wear masks in indoor public spaces. If you are not yet vaccinated, please visit https://www.epcovidvaccine.com. Being vaccinated (with booster shots), wearing masks, and social distancing are the most effective measures we have to keep one another safe. FYI: I am vaccinated and will deliver lectures in a mask.

COURSE DOCUMENTS
All documents for the course, including PowerPoints and course texts, will be uploaded to the course Blackboard page. Students should have access to a laptop for some online assignments.

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
1) LECTURE AND DISCUSSION. The class will meet in person in Fox Fine Arts A458 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Expect to use the full class time. The course is a mix of lecture and discussion.
2) QUIZZES. We will have six reading quizzes throughout the semester. See the Quizzes policy below.
for details. 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. We will take the comparison quiz in class.

3) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS. Students are asked to complete a visual analysis assignment early in the course. Students will write one research paper of about six pages in length. The assignment prompt and other materials related to the project are compiled in a Blackboard tab labeled “Research Paper.”

4) EXAMS. This course will have three exams. See the Exams policy below for details.

5) 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. Any course announcements on Blackboard will also be emailed to students.

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

8) 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 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays via Zoom conferencing. To make a Zoom 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 to talk by telephone.

GRADING POLICY
This course will be graded on a scale of 500 points.
Visual Analysis Worksheet: 12 points
Reading Quizzes (5 of 6): 50 points
Practice Comparison Quiz: 23 points
Discussion I: 15 points
Discussion II: 15 points
Exam 1: 90 points
Exam 2: 95 points
Exam 3: 95 points
Paper Prospectus: 5 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

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 are eligible for the exams, regardless of whether or not they appear on a quiz.

VISUAL ANALYSIS WORKSHEET
This worksheet has exercises to help students prepare for the exams and for visual analysis in the research paper. Students will complete the worksheet online on our course Blackboard page. Late worksheets will be deducted three points per day.

TAKING NOTES IN CLASS
It is important that students take notes for the class to study for the exams; for this reason, I also post the Powerpoints for each week so that you may spend more time with the images. I will highlight the works from the image list in yellow or another obvious color; however, you should take thorough notes. Using bullet points will help you write down more information. 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); these will be uploaded to Blackboard after each class. It is a good idea to date your notes so you know what we covered each day.

EXAM POLICY AND STRUCTURE
Think of the exams as a way to show off what you have learned. Exams may be taken in class or online (or both; to be determined). Exam material will come from ideas discussed in class; the readings supplement lectures and discussions. Completing the readings will not take the place of attendance and participation in class. The exams are not cumulative. Makeup exams will be allowed only with documentation from the Dean of Students.

QUIZZES
The quizzes will cover only the readings for the week of the quiz (listed on the course schedule) and will be taken ONLINE and due at 11:59 pm on the days they are due. Take the quizzes on Blackboard in the Quiz tab. These quizzes are designed to help keep students on track with the course texts. They will also help students prepare for the exams. They are open note and worth ten points each. They will likely include a combination of short answer, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, and true/false questions. To prepare for these, you should make sure to read the texts carefully and take notes on them (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 that week’s topics. Many readings are primary sources written by artists. Quizzes are timed at fifteen minutes each and will shut off at the time they are due, so give yourself some lead time in taking them. There are no makeup quizzes, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
DISCUSSION MEETINGS
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. We will try various exercises to increase participation. Please speak to Dr. Warak if there are factors that may prevent you from participating to your fullest capabilities.

SAFEASSIGN
All written documents will be submitted through SafeAssign links 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 for work that you upload. 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
Papers in this course will use the formats of the Chicago Manual of Style: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org. 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. 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/.

***COURSE POLICIES***

ATTENDANCE POLICY (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)
Policy in short:
DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE SICK.
Allowed absences without penalty (no documentation needed) = 3 absences
Tardies = ½ absence
Automatic drop = 6 absences or 2 absences before the course census date
Attendance bonus = 10 points
Absences due to COVID-19 illness will be excused, but will require documentation.

Policy in detail:
Class attendance is a requirement and use of the full class period is expected unless otherwise stated. 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 not 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; you do not need to show documentation (except in the case of COVID-19 absences) and you do not need to notify Dr. Warak 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. Dr. Warak will keep a running tally of absences in a column on the Gradebook section of Blackboard. You will be able to access the attendance record on Blackboard to see which days you have missed or were late/leave early.

Students are responsible for acquiring notes and announcements made during missed classes, so make a friend and exchange contact information. Dr. Warak will not provide any class notes to students.

**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). 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**
**Six absences will result in an automatic drop from the course**; this includes tardies. Students with two or more absences by the census date (Feb. 2) will be dropped.

**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. If you absolutely must use your phone, quietly step out of the room and keep it brief. 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. Students may be asked to leave phones and smart watches at the front of the classroom during exams. Students may record the lectures with permission.
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, packing bags before class is over, and general disruptiveness. 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 make sure your bag is small enough to fit fully under your chair. If not, you will be asked to put it to the side of the classroom. Art supplies, gym bags, and other items will need to be stored on the shelves in the classroom to keep the floor tidy.

MAKE-UP POLICY
The written assignment sheets explain the 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. 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: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html.

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.).