ARTH 2313: Twentieth-Century Art II
University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2020

CRN: 21968
Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:00 to 1:20 p.m.
Classroom: Fox Fine Arts A458 (4th floor)
Professor: Dr. Melissa Warak (she/her/hers; please call me Dr. or Professor)
Email: mcwarak@utep.edu
Office Hours: T/Th, 1:30-2:30 p.m. and by appointment; signup sheet is on office door
Office: Fox Fine Arts A454 (next to drawing classroom)
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 specializes in the relationship of music and sound to art of the twentieth century. Dr. Warak is a proud Texan and a native of Houston. She 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, 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 in class 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 she can let you know when this might be shown in class.

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. Developing writing and visual analysis skills needed by professional art historians.
2. Learning to find and use resources for answering research questions and problems.
3. Analyzing and critically evaluating ideas and arguments.
4. Gaining knowledge of the terminology, trends, and methodologies used to study postwar, postmodern, and contemporary art.
5. Developing cultural literacy.

**TEXTS / RESOURCES**
We do not have a textbook for this course. 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.

**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 final exam is not cumulative and should take an hour and twenty minutes.

Students will write one paper, which is due in late March. The assignment sheet for the paper will be posted to Blackboard and discussed in class. Students will need to complete an online plagiarism quiz as part of the paper grade.

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.

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. Please speak to your professor if there are factors that may prevent you from participating to your fullest capabilities.

This course will be graded on a scale of 500 points. You will see that the Blackboard page allows for 510 points, but this accounts for 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; the readings supplement 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); 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.

***COURSE POLICIES***

ATTENDANCE POLICY (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)
Policy in short:
Allowed absences (including illness) without penalty = 3 absences
Tardies = ½ absence
Automatic drop = 6 absences or 2 absences before the course census date
Attendance bonus = 10 points

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 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 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. 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. 5) will be dropped. That said, students will receive an attendance bonus of ten points to the final course grade with perfect attendance and zero tardies (no exceptions; attendance must be 100%). 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/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.

**EMAIL POLICY**
All course correspondence from Dr. Warak will take place via Blackboard’s email function. Make sure that you read and receive emails from Blackboard and that you have a current email address on file. Please note that, due to FERPA regulations, Dr. Warak 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, Dr. Warak may ask you to come see her in person to save time. 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. 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 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) (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.