ARITH 3399: Special Topics in Art History / Artistic Identity in the Twentieth Century
University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2016

CRN: 25429
Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays / Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.
Classroom: Fox Fine Arts A458 (4th floor)
Professor: Dr. Warak
Email: mcwarak@utep.edu
Office Hours: T/Th 1:30 to 2:30 and by appointment
Office: Fox Fine Arts A455
Office Phone: (915) 747-5150 (during office hours)

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, 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, and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Kress Foundation, and Yale University Art Gallery, among others. Dr. Warak has previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin, at the University of Houston, and at Sam Houston State University.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the concept of artistic identity in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will explore how an artist’s identity plays a role in the way that his or her art looks, but will also discuss the representation of others’ identities through art of this period. The course is not a general history of identity-based art, but will consider it theoretically, thematically, and through case studies.

Please note that this course is deeply infused with a politics of feminism, gender and queer studies, and critical race studies as part of art historical study of identity. We will seriously consider art that deals frankly with bodies, sexuality, race, and violence. Further, some of the art we will study was created with the intention of challenging the comfort levels of the viewer. In that sense, we should all strive to create a classroom environment that is a safe place for ideas but that is also respectful to difference of opinion. It is not expected that you should enjoy – in a conventional sense – or agree with the ideological premises of all of the art explored in this course. Please come see me in the first week of class if you would like to discuss any concerns about this.
COURSE OBJECTIVES
During this course, students will develop their understanding of the ways that identity plays a role in modern and contemporary art and acquire skills essential to the study of art history. These include the following:
1. Developing writing skills, oral presentation competencies, and points of view 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 modern and contemporary art.

TEXTS / RESOURCES
We do not have a single textbook for this course. Selected articles and book chapters will be posted to the course’s related Blackboard page as downloadable PDFs (see schedule). Students are responsible for downloading these from Blackboard. All readings need to be completed before the class period for the day.

GRADING POLICY
This course will have three exams. Exams will be essay based (you will have a choice). We will not have specific image lists for each exam. Instead, students will decide on appropriate examples from class for their essay exams. Exams will be OPEN NOTE, so make sure to take notes extensively. The exams are not cumulative. See me during office hours for help improving your note-taking skills.

Students will write one paper with a research component. An assignment sheet for the paper will be posted to Blackboard; make sure to read it thoroughly. Each student will also be responsible for teaching / presenting on an artist on a given class day. Students will also be graded on discussion participation in class. A good rule of thumb is to try to contribute at least once per class (via ideas, questions, or responses to other students). Lastly, we will have twelve reading quizzes (worth 10 points each) throughout the semester; these will take place at the beginning of class and will cover only the readings for the listed day. There will be no makeup quizzes, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

This course will be graded on a scale of 500 points.
Readin Quizzes (12):
Participation: 110 points
Artist Presentation: 25 points
Exam 1: 65 points
Exam 2: 75 points
Exam 3: 75 points
Research Paper: 125 points

Therefore, here is the point breakdown for grades:
448 – 500 points: A
397 – 447 points: B
347 – 396 points: C
297 – 346 points: D
000 – 296 points: F

***ATTendance POLICY***

Policy in short:

Attendance is mandatory
Allowed absences (including illness) without penalty = 3 absences (remember: three for free)
Tardies = ½ absence
Automatic failure = 6 or more 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 will be allowed three absences for any reason without grading consequences. In this course, there are no excused or unexcused absences. You just get three for free. 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). 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 failure of the course; this includes tardies. That said, you will receive an attendance bonus of ten points to your final grade if you have perfect attendance and no tardies (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.

READING QUIZZES

Students will take the daily 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 just for a given day and will likely be short answer, fill-in-the-blank, or true/false questions. To prepare for these, you should make sure to read the texts 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.

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).

***COURSE POLICIES***

**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 an email address that you check regularly 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 try to turn around emails as quickly as possible, but do not expect an answer from me after 5:00 p.m. 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 (including recording 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. **Leave the room if you absolutely must use your phone.** You will be reprimanded and marked absent if you are caught using your phone in the classroom. Repeat offenses will result in disciplinary action. If a cell phone is in any way visible during an examination, that student will automatically fail the exam.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**
Please be respectful of other students in the classroom. Please do not enter the classroom late, keep your phone out of sight and silent, do not send text messages. Do not pack up your things before the end of class. Students may bring food or drinks if they are allowed in the classroom. Your professor’s biggest pet peeves are texting / looking at phones and packing bags before class ends. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**MAKE-UP POLICY**
The paper assignment sheet will explain a late work policy. Exams will be made up ONLY in the event of an extreme emergency situation. Plan your semester accordingly.

**PAPER formatting and writing help**
All papers should be uploaded to Turnitin (via Blackboard) by the start of class on the due date; I may also require a paper copy. For all questions pertaining to grammar, syntax, footnoting and style, see the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. For an excellent tutorial on how to document sources properly, see the following webpage: 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/)

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM**
Academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or cheating will result in failure in this course. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a professional manner and to maintain honesty and integrity both in and out of the classroom. 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 including but not limited to the following: cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, forgery of signatures, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. 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**
Reasonable 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 must meet with the instructor within the first two weeks of class, with CASS documentation in hand, in order to inform her of any special needs. If particular accommodations are required for the exams, the instructor must be informed and presented with the appropriate CASS documentation at least one week before each scheduled test or no accommodations will be permitted.

**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 or an examination in observance of a religious holy day and accommodations will be made.
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

T, January 19
Topic: Introduction and definitions of terminology

Th, January 21
Topic: Neurodivergence and Art: Vincent Van Gogh and Henri Rousseau

T, January 26
Reading Quiz #1
Topic: Outsider and Folk Art: Henry Darger, James Hampton, Grandma Moses, and Richard Wawro
Student Presentation: Charles Dellschau / Harriet Powers

Th, January 28
Topic: Visionart Art: Simon Rodia, Paul Laffoley, and Jeff McKissack
Reading: Trillin, Calvin. “I Know I Want to Do Something.” The New Yorker (May 29, 1965): 72, 74, 77, 78, 80, 83, 84, 86, 89, 90, 92, 94, 96-98, 100, 102-104, 106-110, 112-116, 119, 120. (قصر seems long, but these are narrow columns in a magazine!)
Student Presentation: Nek Chand

T, February 2
Paper Topics Due
Topic: Early African-American Art: Robert S. Duncanson, Edmonia Lewis, and Henry Ossawa Tanner
Student Presentation: William Edmondson / Bill Traylor

Th, February 4
NO CLASS / WORK ON RESEARCH PAPERS

T, February 9
Reading Quiz #2
Topic: Primitivism in France: Paul Gauguin and Pablo Picasso
Readings: Antliff, Mark and Patricia Mathews. “Primitive.” In Critical Terms for Art History, eds. Robert

Student Presentation: Rudyard Kipling’s “The White Man’s Burden” (poem, 1899) and Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness (novel, 1899) (presentation will focus on these two works of literature and the authors)

Th, February 11
Topic: Others in the Stieglitz Circle: Georgia O’Keeffe and Marsden Hartley
Student Presentation: Marius de Zayas

T, February 16
Reading Quiz #3
Topic: Jazz and the Harlem Renaissance: Aaron Douglas and Augusta Savage
Student Presentation: Palmer Hayden

Th, February 18
Topic: Modern Native American Arts: Gerald Nailor, Jr., Maria Montoya Martinez, and James Luna / Exam 1 Review
Student Presentation: Jimmie Durham, Jr.

T, February 23
EXAM #1 (bring your notebook)

Th, February 25
Topic: Hyper-Masculine Surrealism: Salvador Dalí and René Magritte
Student Presentation: Luis Buñuel / Hans Bellmer

T, March 1
Reading Quiz #4
Topic: Surreal Women: Frida Kahlo and Leonora Carrington
Student Presentation: Max Ernst / Dorothea Tanning

Th, March 3
Topic: Queer Modernism: Paul Cadmus and Tom of Finland
Student Presentations: Francis Bacon

March 8 and March 10
NO CLASS / SPRING BREAK

T, March 15
Topic: Hipness and the Beat Generation
Student Presentation: William S. Burroughs

Th, March 17
Reading Quiz #5
Topic: Civil Rights Representation: Gordon Parks and Norman Rockwell
[https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/the-white-negro-fall-1957](https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/the-white-negro-fall-1957)
Student Presentation: Emory Douglas

T, March 22
Reading Quiz #6
Topic: Pop Personalities I: Andy Warhol and James Rosenquist
Student Presentation: Brigid Berlin

**Th, March 24**  
**PEER REVIEW OF PAPER OUTLINES / BIBLIOGRAPHIES**  
Topic: Pop Personalities II: Marta Minujin and Yayoi Kusama  
*NOTE: the Brest and Minujin writings are in a single PDF.*

**T, March 29**  
**Reading Quiz #7**  
Topic: East Meets West I: Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Isamu Noguchi, and Yoko Ono  
Student Presentation: Yasumasu Morimura

**Th, March 31**  
**Reading Quiz #8**  
Topic: East Meets West II: Shahzia Sikander, Yinka Shonibare, Wangechi Mutu / Exam 2 Review  
Student Presentation: Emily Jacir

**T, April 5**  
**EXAM #2** (bring your notebook)

**Th, April 7**  
El Paso Museum of Art visit; meet at 11:00 in second floor galleries to view *Knot: The Art of Sebastian*
T, April 12
Reading Quiz #9
Topic: Bad Girls and Subversive Women: Judy Chicago, Barbara Kruger, and the Guerrilla Girls
Student Presentation: Suzanne Lacy / Martha Rosler

Th, April 14
Student Presentation: Janine Antoni

T, April 19
Reading Quiz #10
Topic: The NEA, Controversy, and Censorship: Robert Mapplethorpe and Andres Serrano
Student Presentation: David Wojnarowicz / the “Hide/Seek” exhibition controversy

Th, April 21
Topic: Identity and the Street I (film TBA)

T, April 26
Reading Quiz #11
Topic: Identity and the Street II: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, and Ai WeiWei
Student Presentation: Frank Romero
Th, April 28

***RESEARCH PAPERS DUE***

Topic: Autobiography in Contemporary Performance Art: Marina Abramović, Tania Bruguera, and Nikki S. Lee


Student Presentation: Oscar Murillo

T, May 3

Reading Quiz #12


Student Presentation: Theaster Gates

Th, May 5

Topic: Latinas in Contemporary Art: Yolanda López, Christina Fernandez, and Daniela Rossell / Exam 3 Review


Student Presentation: Seminar Paper(s)

***EXAM #3*** will take place during the course’s designated final exam period, but will not be cumulative: Thursday, May 12th, 10:00 a.m.