HAVC 100A: Approaches to Visual Studies
Summer Session I 2015: June 22 – July 24
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4:30 pm
McHenry Classroom 1262 (basement level)

Instructor: Lorraine Affourtit
Office Hours: McHenry Library cafe, T/Th 4:30-5:30 pm
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Course Objectives
This course offers students an introduction to the methods and theories used in the study of the History of Art and Visual Culture. It aims to familiarize students with these theories through reading original theoretical literature and examining how prominent scholars have applied these methods and theories. Not simply explaining the logic of particular methodologies, the course will encourage students to consider what is at stake (from political, economic, and cultural vantages) in the selection of a particular approach.

This course is reading and writing intensive. Because critical reading, research, and writing are indispensable skills for the practice of art history and visual culture, the course will hone students’ abilities in these three areas. Grades will hinge on the quality of student writing assignments, the development of ideas and writing throughout the quarter, and the ability to engage with the material, to read closely, and to demonstrate active participation in the learning experience. Therefore, a large portion of the grade will reflect class participation and preparation.

Course Requirements & Evaluations:
The course is made up of student-led seminar-style discussions, lectures, and workshops designed to help you develop reading, writing, and research skills. Performance translates into letter grades as follows:

C  Average performance: Presentation of a reasonable amount of substantially correct factual information relevant to the topic. In class discussions, one demonstrates familiarity with the assigned readings.

B  Above average performance: Demonstrated control of factual material in depth, clear exposition and coherent organization. Through participation in class, one demonstrates a solid grounding in the issues and debates addressed in the readings.

A  Excellent performance: Comprehensive factual knowledge, well-organized and well-written, showing independent, critical thinking and originality of insight. In class discussions, one shows a careful and critical reading of the text and evidence of original research. For example, one might investigate the context of the reading or have looked up difficult or unusual terms, etc. In addition, one’s participation in discussion encourages others to talk rather than simply monopolizing the discussion.

Please note that cooperation between students will boost everyone’s grade. Credit will be given to those who actively encourage the inclusion of all class members in discussions.

Writing Assignments (60% of grade)
The course requires completion of a research paper as well as several smaller assignments that will assist you in its successful completion. Each student will choose one work of visual culture to research throughout the quarter from an image bank found on the ecommons class site. The writing assignments are as follows:

1. A formal analysis of the selected artwork (1 page, due July 2)

2. A proposal for your research project (1 page) and an annotated bibliography of approximately ten of the most significant sources on the artwork (due July 9)
3. A draft of your opening paragraph(s) with thesis statement and paper outline (2 pages, due July 16)

4. Your final research paper (7-10 pages, due July 23)

More detailed descriptions and guidelines for each assignment are available in ecommons resources. Students are expected to make use of feedback on each of their assignments in preparing subsequent assignments. No late papers will be accepted without valid, documented excuse. Failure to complete any assignment will result in a failing grade for the class.

Participation and Attendance (25% of grade):
All readings appear in a required Course Reader, which is available for purchase at the Baytree Bookstore. Students are expected to complete the readings BEFORE they come to class. Students must bring the reader to every class as be prepared to participate in discussion.

Any absence without a valid, documented excuse will result in failing the class. Frequent tardiness (10 or more minutes late to class, arriving late after breaks) will impact your grade. Please plan accordingly.

Students will keep a Reading Journal throughout the quarter. This journal should include four elements for EACH reading:

1) a short analysis (1-2 paragraphs), indicating what you think the main argument is and how it is supported
2) a quote that you find interesting or important and some notes about why you chose it
3) a carefully crafted question or discussion point on the essay
4) a list of terms and their definitions for any words or phrases you were not familiar with

You will be called upon randomly during class time to share your reading journal, to suggest discussion of the quote you chose, define terms, or to pose your question to the group. I will also check your reading journal during class meetings to be sure you have completed your entries.

Presentation (15% of grade)
Each student is required to present on one of the reading assignments. The presentation will include a short (5 minute) formal presentation and a discussion facilitation. The first part will be much like a talk you might give at a conference. Presenters will read from a typed paper (2 pages), which should critically respond to the reading, introduce the main points and the overall argument, and gesture toward an analysis. In the second part, the presenter will facilitate discussion by posing questions and discussion points to the class. Typed presentations will then be turned in to me for a grade. A sign-up sheet will circulate the first day of class and more detailed instructions and tips can be found under ecommons resources.

Standards of Academic Integrity:
All students are expected to uphold UCSC standards of academic integrity. Academic misconduct, including but not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty will result in an automatic and non-negotiable “F” in the class. Students suspected of academic misconduct may also face University disciplinary procedures. For further information, see www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.
Course Schedule:

Week 1A (June 23)  Introduction

Required Reading:


Week 1B (June 25)  Field Trip:  Looking at Art
*Mandatory Field Trip 9-5 pm. Detailed information and waiver available under ecommons resources.*

Required Reading/ Viewing:


*Other media will be added here. Refer to the “Field Trip: Looking at Art” document in ecommons resources.

June 30  Art History and Visual Studies

Required Reading:


Optional Reading:

July 2  Modernism’s Impact

Writing Assignment #1 DUE

Required Reading:


Clement Greenberg, “Modernist Painting” in Monique Chefdor et al. eds. *Modernism: Challenges and Perspectives*
Raymond Williams, “When was Modernism?” in Frascina and Harris, *Art in Modern Culture*, 23-27.

**Optional Reading:**

**July 7**  
**Marxism and the Social History of Art**

**Required Reading:**
Karl Marx, “Section 1: The Two Factors of A Commodity,” “Section 2: The Twofold Character of the Labour Embodied in Commodities,” and “Section 4: The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof,” in *Capital, Volume One*. http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm#S1


**Optional Reading:**
Karl Marx, “Estranged Labour” in *The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*.  
http://marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/labour.htm

**July 9**  
**Postmodernism and Poststructuralism**

**Writing Assignment #2 DUE**

**Required Reading:**


**Optional Reading:**

**July 14**  
**Orientalism/ Postcolonialism**

**Required Reading:**


**Optional Reading:**
July 16 Gender Constructions
Written Assignment #3 DUE

Required Reading:


Optional Reading:

July 21 Critical Race Visual Studies
Required Reading:


Optional Reading:

July 23 Museums and the Issue of Display
Final Research Paper DUE

Required Reading:


Optional Reading (Future Directions):