

ARTH 36200: Twentieth Century Art/ Contemporary

I. COURSE

School

Arts, Media, and Communications

Course Number

ARTH 36200

Course Title

Twentieth Century Art/Contemporary Art

Credit Hours

3

Term

Fall 2020

Term Dates

August 24-December 11

Course Description

This course is a study of global developments of artistic techniques, trends, and approaches from Post World-War II to the 2000s. We will examine major movements, artistic processes, and influential artists. This course will cover movements from Abstract Expressionism, to Minimalism, art forms such as installations to video art, and artists from Helen Frankenthaler to Ai Weiwei.

Notifications

The course syllabus is subject to change if the instructor deems it necessary in order to accomplish the course objectives. Students will be notified in writing of all substantive changes to the course syllabus.

II. INSTRUCTOR

Name

Dr. Trenton Olsen

Contact Information

Email: tolsen@lindenwood.edu

Office: McCluer Hall 20

Office phone: (636) 949-4692

Office Hours & Responsiveness

T/Th 12:30-3:30 or by appointment. All office hours this semester will be held virtually

Please do not hesitate to email or call if you ever have questions or need to contact me for any reason. I will respond to all emails within 48 business hours.

Social Media

www.cafearthistory.com

Instagram and Twitter: [cafearthistory](#)

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

- Ability to recognize and identify major trends in contemporary art, including iconic images, texts, artists, and scholars
- Demonstrate knowledge of critical analysis skills of contemporary art and its corresponding academic texts
- Critically respond to the design, display, and rhetoric of art exhibitions
- Demonstrate knowledge of non-U.S. cultures, global history and diversity

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

- Demonstrate knowledge of standard canon of art history with a general body of knowledge about objects from the various historical periods and regions

- Ability to perform visual analyses of works and use critical language and vocabulary of art history
- Engage in advanced issues and current theoretical debates related to art

IV. GRADING

Final Grades

Final grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A (90-100%) = goes beyond basic requirements of assignment, excellent understanding of the topic/question, an insightful and thoughtful response to the material covered, persuasive and logical argumentation, and no typographical or grammatical errors

B (80-89%) = completes requirements of assignment efficiently, demonstrates competent understanding of the topic/question, adequate grasp of information, logical argument, possibly a few organizational problems or grammatical errors, but shows overall coherence in discussion and has few or no problems with grammar or typing

C (70-79%) = meets minimum requirements of the assignment but reveals superficial preparation through problems with factual information (omissions or errors) and logical argument, and may have grammatical and/or typographical errors

D (60-69%) = inadequate work, does not follow directions, poor use of resources, serious writing problems

F (0-59%) = work not turned in or does not match assignment requirements

Assignments & Points

15% Response Essays (15 total)

10% Museum Response

25% Midterm Exam

25% Final Exam

25% Final project

Response essays:

All required readings, with the exception of the textbook, are available on Canvas. You will complete 15 *short* response essays (about 1-2 paragraphs each) over the course of

the semester. Reading requiring a response are marked with an asterisk (*) in the course schedule. Deadlines for response essays are noted on the schedule and must be uploaded to Canvas before class. You should be prepared to discuss your responses to the readings in class.

Museum Response:

Depending on museum access/closures due to COVID-19, students must engage a work of contemporary art in a museum collection. I will keep you updated regarding the status of local museums, but you should prepare in advance to visit a museum this semester. In case of closures, you may access the work virtually. In your brief response paper (300-500 words), you will focus on visual analysis, describing the formal elements of your selected work. You will also connect the work to the larger themes and movements discussed in class.

Exams:

Your midterm and final exams will be at home, open note. The final exam is not cumulative. For each test, you will respond to two prompts and write a long essay in response. Exam deadlines are marked on the schedule.

Final project:

You may select one of two options for your final project:

Exhibition catalog

For this project, you will explore major works by a contemporary single artist or works by various artists unified around a theme. You will create an “exhibition guide” that showcases your research around the selected works. In your magazine, you will discuss the artist’s studio practice, cultural/social influences, and interpretations of their major works. Your guide needs to include at least three works. Only one selection may be a work discussed in class. Further explanation for this project is available on Canvas.

Research paper

For this paper, you will write an 8-10 page research paper on a single work of art created after World War II. Each paper should include: relevant biographical information about the artist and the circumstances around the work’s creation; information about the work’s exhibition history and/or critical reception; detailed discussion of the subject of the work; a detailed visual analysis of the work; a summary and critical assessment of the most important scholarship written regarding your work; and conclusion summarizing your understanding of and the overall artistic significance of the work.

Late & Missing Work

University classes are difficult under the best of circumstances. Right now we are enduring unprecedented challenges. I will exert as much leniency as possible with

deadlines. All assignments have a concrete deadline. However, if extenuating circumstances arise, I will allow work to be turned in without penalty up to seven days late if you contact me in advance to explain your circumstances. Otherwise, 1/3 grade point will be deducted each day it is late. After seven days, late submissions will no longer be accepted.

Should there be a medical or dependent reason that prohibited you from submitting the assignment, please let the instructor know so as not to penalize you when grading and to give you extended time.

V. POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS

For policies and procedures that apply to all courses at Lindenwood University, please refer to the Lindenwood folder in the Canvas Global Navigation Menu.

Mask Policy

A face mask or other face covering is required at all times in public spaces, including classrooms. Instructors may remove their masks to teach as long as they remain behind the protective plexiglass barrier. Students who arrive at an on-ground class meeting without a mask will be denied entry to the classroom and asked to participate virtually from their residence or to return after retrieving their mask. Students who are unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition should contact Jeremy Keye (jkeye@lindenwood.edu), the Manager of the Student Support and Accessibility Program, to secure accommodations.

Academic Honesty

Students will complete a video discussion every fourth week as part of authentication measures, along with video conferencing with Writing Specialists and Reference Librarians.

Students enrolled in an online or hybrid course must also have a current photo, confirmed by a valid form of identification, within Lindenwood's student information system. Students who refuse to complete initial authentication requirements by the end of the add period or who reject or refuse to complete the Ethics Agreement will be dropped from the course. Students who refuse to complete subsequent authentication requirements will be withdrawn from and charged for the course and subject to other financial consequences if the change moves them from full-time to part-time status. Authentication costs, if applicable, are disclosed prior to enrollment via fees included in course schedules. Any suspicions or evidence of authentication breaches or academic dishonesty will be reported to the Associate Provost.

Books (Required)

Smith, Terry. *Contemporary Art World Currents*. Prentice Hall, 2011.

File Formats

All written assignments uploaded in Canvas should be a doc, docx, or pdf file.

Materials & Supplies (Required)

NA

Student Interaction & Communication

This course requires participation in weekly discussions and group work.

Etiquette rules are applicable to all online communications. When conducted properly, online communications should be no less in terms of quality and consideration than that which is exchanged in face-to-face or printed communications.

Writing Style

Art History follows Chicago Style for written texts. For extensive citation and style information, see *The Chicago Manual of Style: 16th Edition* at any library. For basic citation information in this style, including both footnote and bibliography style, see: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

VI. AUTHENTICATION

Lindenwood takes academic integrity very seriously and we are committed to student authentication. As per The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110–315), student authentication is defined as “processes to establish that the student who registers for a distance education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the program and receives the academic credit.” Accordingly, compliance with Lindenwood’s Student Authentication Policy (see Lindenwood Folder in the Canvas Global Navigation Menu) is a condition of enrollment in all online and hybrid courses.

VII. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES & RESOURCES

Academic

For the following information, please refer to the Lindenwood folder in the Canvas Global Navigation Menu:

- Student and Academic Support Services
- Technical Support Services and Resources
- Technical Requirements

Writing

For assistance with written assignments, please contact the Lindenwood Writing Center.

VIII. ACCESSIBILITY

If you have a disability or believe you may have a disability that requires reasonable accommodations for participation in a course, please contact the Office of Student and Academic Support Services and notify your professor during the first week of class so accommodations can be made.

IX. COPYRIGHT

This course is compliant with Lindenwood's Copyright Policy (see Lindenwood Folder in the Canvas Global Navigation Menu). Students may not distribute copies of copyrighted materials to other students. This includes PowerPoints, handouts, podcasts, etc.