

# Artists as Activists

## ART/IDIS 212

Dr. Debra Torok

dtorok@moravian.edu, 610-861-1624, Hours by Appointment

Office: Priscilla Payne Hurd (South) Campus, Music Center, Room 119

Fall 2011

Hurd Integrated Living and Learning

Tues. 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Room 209

### Goal

Artists as Activists is a course designed to explore the impact that the arts have on social activism. Students will interpret visual art, as well as other media including film, music, theater, and writing. The history of arts activism will also be studied with an emphasis on the importance and responsibilities of artists. Students will experience selected artwork as critics, interpreters, and become involved in the artistic process.

### Textbook

Interpreting Art: Reflecting, Wondering, and Responding (McGraw Hill, 2003) by Terry Barrett, ISBN: 978-0-7674-1648-1

### Requirements

Attendance and promptness are mandatory since class participation will count as a portion of the final grade. Assignments and projects must be completed on time. Students are advised to take notes during class.

### Assignment Policy

Projects must be completed on time. All other assignments are considered on time if received in class or by 4:00 pm on the due date. Email submissions are allowed. Assignments submitted within one day of the due date will receive a 5-point deduction. Assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 15-point deduction and assignments submitted more than a week late will receive a zero.

### Grading

Attendance and Class Participation	20%
Reaction Papers	40%
Projects (2)	30%
Art Reviews/Class Project	10%

There will be strict adherence to the Academic Honesty Policy in accordance with the college handbook. Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Schedule (Subject to change)

- 8/30 Introduction; Survey; Interpreting Art  
Assignment: Read Chapter 1 in text
- 9/6 Media Activist: *Is This What Democracy Looks Like?*  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
Assignments: Billboards; Read Chapter 2 in text; Reaction 1 (see assignment sheet)
- 9/13 Revolutionary Concepts; *Soundtrack for a Revolution*  
**Billboards Presented; Reaction 1 Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 2; Read Chapter 3 in text; Read *The Nature of Art* (handout)
- 9/20 Controversial Art; *The U.S. vs. John Lennon*  
**Reaction 2 Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 3; Read Chapter 6; Preliminary Bibliography Project 1; Read *Introduction to the Photographer's Eye* (handout)
- 9/27 Activism and Photography; **Preliminary Projects Due and Reviewed; Reaction 3 Due**  
Assignment: Project 1
- 10/4 **Class Presentations: Project 1**
- 10/11 Fall Break
- 10//18 Activists Organizations and the Arts  
Assignments: Class Project; Read Chapter 7
- 10/25 *Degenerate Art*; Class Project Meeting  
Assignment: Reaction 4; Read Chapter 8
- 11/1 The Impact of Music Videos; Class Project Meeting  
**Reaction 4 Due**
- 11/8 Special Session on Thursday November 10 at 4:00 PM,  
Prosser Auditorium: *Gasland* with director Josh Fox  
answering questions after the film  
Assignment: Reaction 5
- 11/11 Special Event - NYC Art Trip  
Assignment: Art Review

- 11/15 Introduction to Alfredo Jaar; Documentary Film Creation  
**Reaction 5 Due**  
Assignment: Presentation strategy; Read Poetry handout;  
Read *Propaganda in Peace and War* (handout)
- 11/22 Class Project Meeting; War: Protest and Propaganda: *Why We Fight*; **Art Review Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 6; Read *Looking at War* (handout);  
Preliminary Project
- 11/29 Controversy and Political Protest: *Capitalism: A Love Story*  
**Class Project Due; Reaction 6 Due; Preliminary Project Due**  
Assignment: Project 2
- 12/6 **Class Presentations: Project 2**  
There is no final examination in this course.