

Artists as Activists

AR/IDIS 212 Z

Dr. Debra Torok

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

Spring 2012

Weds. 6:30 – 9:30 PM

Hurd Integrated Living and Learning

Room 310

Goal

Artists as Activists is a course designed to explore the impact that the arts have on social activism. Students will examine, research, and evaluate visual, performing, and literary works of art. 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 the day after 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

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| 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)

1/18 Introduction; Survey; Interpreting Art; *This is What Democracy Looks Like*
Assignments: Read Chapter 1 in Text; Reaction 1 (See Assignment Sheet)

- 1/25 Media Activism; Chapter 1 Discussion; Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Looking at Hate Groups
Assignment: Billboards; **Reaction 1 Due**
- 2/1 Special Session – Exhibition TBA; Discussion
Assignments: Art Review; Read Chapter 2
- 2/8 **Billboards Presented**
Revolutionary Concepts; *Soundtrack for a Revolution*
Assignments: Reaction 2; Read Chapter 3; Read “The Nature of Art” (handout); **Art Review Due**
- 2/15 Special Session on Thursday February 16 at 7:00 PM in the UBC Room: *The Economics of Happiness*; Discussion
Assignment: Preliminary Projects; **Reaction 2 Due**
- 2/22 Controversial Art; *The U.S. vs. John Lennon*
Assignments: Reaction 3; Project 1; **Preliminary Projects Due and Reviewed**
- 2/29 **Class Presentations: Project 1**
Assignment: Read “Introduction to the Photographer’s Eye” (handout); **Reaction 3 Due**
- 3/7 Spring Break
- 3/14 Activists Organizations and the Arts; Occupy; Guest Speaker; Activism and Photography; Class Project Meeting
Assignment: Read Chapter 6; Photography Assignment
- 3/21 *Degenerate Art*; Class Project Meeting
Assignments: Reaction 4; Read Chapter 7; **Photography Assignment Due**
- 3/28 Environmental Activism: *Gasland*; Discussion; Guest Speaker
Assignments Reaction 5; Music Video; Read Chapter 8; **Reaction 4 Due**
- 3/30 Special Event – NYC Art Trip
Assignment: Art Review
- 4//4 The Impact of Music Videos; Class Project Meeting
Assignments: Read Poetry Handout; Read “Propaganda in Peace and War” (handout); Read “Looking at War” (handout); Preliminary Projects 2; **Art Review Due; Reaction 5 due; Music Video Due**
- 4/11 Introduction to Alfredo Jaar and Harun Farocki; War - Protest and Propaganda: *Why We Fight*; **Preliminary Projects Due**
- 4/18 **Class Project Presentation**; Guest Speaker; **Class Presentations: Project 2**
- 4/25 **Class Presentations: Project 2 Continued**; Evaluations

There is no final examination in this course.