

# Artists as Activists

## AR/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 2012

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 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 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 Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510.

Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

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)

- 8/28 Introduction; Survey; Interpreting Art  
Assignment: Read Chapter 1 in text
- 9/4 Media Activism: *Is This What Democracy Looks Like?*  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
Assignments: Billboards; Read Chapter 2 in text; Reaction  
1 (see assignment sheet)
- 9/11 **Billboards Due and Presented**  
Revolutionary Concepts; *Soundtrack for a Revolution*  
**Reaction 1 Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 2; Read Chapter 3 in text; Read *The  
Nature of Art* (handout)
- 9/18 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)
- 9/25 Activists Organizations and the Arts; Occupy  
**Preliminary Projects Due and Reviewed**  
**Reaction 3 Due**  
Assignment: Project 1
- 10/2 **Class Presentations: Project 1**
- 10/9 Fall Break
- 10//16 Activism and Photography; Class Project Meeting  
Assignments: Read Chapter 7; Photography Assignment
- 10/23 *Degenerate Art*; A Sampler of Interpretations  
**Photography Assignment Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 4; Read Chapter 8
- 10/30 Environmental Activism: *Gasland*; Discussion; Class  
Project Meeting  
**Reaction 4 Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 5; Music Video
- 11/6 The Impact of Music Videos  
**Reaction 5 Due**  
**Music Video Due**

Assignment: Read Poetry Handout

TBA	Special Event - NYC Art Trip Assignment: Art Review
11/13	Introductions to Alfredo Jaar and Harun Farocki; Class Project Meeting Assignments: Preliminary Bibliography for Project 2; Read <i>Propaganda in Peace and War</i> (handout); Read <i>Looking at War</i> (handout)
11/20	War: Protest and Propaganda; <i>Why We Fight</i> ; <b>Art Review Due; Preliminary Bibliography Due</b> Assignments: Reaction 6; Project 2; Class Project
11/27	Hate Groups <b>Class Project Due and Presented</b> <b>Class Presentations: Project 2</b> <b>Reaction 6 Due</b>
12/4	<b>Class Presentations Continued: Project 2</b> Evaluations

There is no final examination in this course.