

Artists as Activists

AR/IDIS 212

Dr. Debra Torok

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

Spring 2013

Hurd Integrated Living and Learning

Weds. 6:30 – 9:30 PM

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 evening session. 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, Assignments	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)

- 1/16 Introduction; Survey; Interpreting Art
Assignment: Read Chapter 1 in text
- 1/23 Media Activism: *Is This What Democracy Looks Like?*
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Class Project Discussion
Assignments: Billboards; Read Chapter 2; Reaction 1 (see assignment sheet)
- 1/30 **Billboards Due and Presented**
Revolutionary Concepts; *Soundtrack for a Revolution*
Reaction 1 Due
Assignments: Reaction 2; Read Chapter 3; Read *The Nature of Art* (handout)
- 2/6 Controversial Art; *The U.S. vs. John Lennon*
Class Project Meeting
Reaction 2 Due
Assignments: Reaction 3; Read Chapter 6; Preliminary Bibliography Project 1; Read *Introduction to the Photographer's Eye* (handout)
- 2/13 Activists Organizations and the Arts; Occupy
Class Project Meeting
Preliminary Projects Due and Reviewed
Reaction 3 Due
Assignment: Project 1
- 2/20 **Class Presentations: Project 1**
- 2/27 Activism and Photography
Assignments: Read Chapter 7; Photography Assignment
Class Project Due and Presented
- 3/6 Spring Break
- 3/13 *Degenerate Art*; A Sampler of Interpretations
Photography Assignments Due and Presented
Assignments: Reaction 4; Read Chapter 8
- 3/20 Environmental Activism: *Gasland*; Discussion
Reaction 4 Due
Assignments: Reaction 5; Music Video

- 3/27 The Impact of Music Videos
Reaction 5 Due
Music Video Due
Assignment: Read Poetry Handout
- 4/3 War: Protest and Propaganda; *Why We Fight*
Assignments: Preliminary Bibliography for Project 2; Read
Propaganda in Peace and War (handout); Read *Looking at*
War (handout); Reaction 6
- TBA Special Event - NYC Art Trip
Assignment: Art Review
- 4/10 Introductions to Alfredo Jaar and Harun Farocki
Art Review Due
Preliminary Bibliography Due
Reaction 6 Due
Assignment: Project 2
- 4/17 Hate Groups
Class Presentations: Project 2
- 4/24 **Class Presentations Continued: Project 2**
Evaluations

There is no final examination in this course.