

Artists as Activists

ART 212

Dr. Debra Torok

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

Fall 2013

Tues. 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Hurd Integrated Living and Learning

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.

The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a one credit hour course.

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)

8/27	Introduction; Survey; Interpreting Art Invisible Children and Social Media Assignment: Read Chapter 1 in text
9/3	Media Activism: <i>Is This What Democracy Looks Like?</i> Universal Declaration of Human Rights Assignments: Billboards; Read Chapter 2 in text; Reaction 1 (see assignment sheet)
9/10	Billboards Due and Presented Revolutionary Concepts; <i>Soundtrack for a Revolution</i> Reaction 1 Due Assignments: Reaction 2; Read Chapter 3 in text; Read <i>The Nature of Art</i> (handout)
9/17	Controversial Art; <i>The U.S. vs. John Lennon</i> Reaction 2 Due Assignments: Reaction 3; Read Chapter 6; Preliminary Bibliography Project 1; Read <i>Introduction to the Photographer's Eye</i> (handout)
9/24	Activists Organizations and the Arts Preliminary Projects Due and Reviewed Reaction 3 Due Assignment: Project 1
10/1	Class Presentations: Project 1
10/8	Activism and Photography; Class Project Meeting Assignments: Read Chapter 7; Photography Assignment
10//15	Fall Break
10/22	<i>Degenerate Art</i> ; A Sampler of Interpretations Photography Assignment Due Assignments: Reaction 4; Read Chapter 8
10/29	Environmental Activism: <i>Gasland</i> ; Discussion; Class Project Meeting Reaction 4 Due Assignments: Reaction 5; Music Video

11/5	The Impact of Music Videos Reaction 5 Due Music Video Due Assignment: Read Poetry Handout
TBA	Special Event - NYC Art Trip Assignment: Art Review
11/12	Introductions to Alfredo Jaar, Harun Farocki, Ai Weiwei, and Harry Wu; 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); Class Project
11/19	Hate Groups; War: Protest and Propaganda; <i>Why We Fight</i> ; Art Review Due; Preliminary Bibliography Due Assignments: Reaction 6; Project 2 Class Project Due
11/26	Thanksgiving Break
12/3	Class Presentation: Project 2 Reaction 6 Due Evaluations

There is no final examination in this course.