

# Artists as Activists

## ART 212

Dr. Debra Torok

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

Fall 2014

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. Reading assignments must be completed on time for class discussion. 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 preferred. 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%
Reviews, 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 in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). 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)

- 8/26 Introduction; Survey; Interpreting Art  
Invisible Children and Social Media  
Assignment: Read Chapter 1 in text
- 9/2 Media Activism: Discussion on *Is This What Democracy Looks Like?* Universal Declaration of Human Rights;  
Controversial Art; Documentary and topic for Reaction 1:  
*The U.S. vs. John Lennon*  
Assignments: Billboards; Read Chapter 2 in text; Reaction 1 (see assignment sheet)
- 9/9 **Billboards Due and Presented**  
**Reaction 1 Due**  
Guest Speaker on Human Trafficking from Truth for Women (Topic for Reaction 2)  
Assignments: Reaction 2; Read Chapter 3 in text; Read *The Nature of Art* (handout)
- 9/16 Revolutionary Concepts; *Soundtrack for a Revolution*  
**Reaction 2 Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 3; Read Chapter 6; Preliminary Bibliography Project 1; Read *Introduction to the Photographer's Eye* (handout)
- 9/23 Activists Organizations and the Arts  
**Preliminary Projects Due and Reviewed**  
**Reaction 3 Due**  
Assignment: Project 1
- 9/30 **Class Presentations: Project 1**
- 10/7 Activism and Photography; Class Project Meeting  
Assignments: Read Chapter 7; Photography Assignment
- 10//14 Fall Break
- 10/21 *Degenerate Art*; A Sampler of Interpretations  
**Photography Assignment Due**  
Assignments: Reaction 4; Read Chapter 8

10/28	Environmental Activism: <i>Gasland</i> ; Discussion; Class Project Meeting <b>Reaction 4 Due</b> Assignments: Reaction 5; Music Video
11/4	The Impact of Music Videos <b>Reaction 5 Due</b> <b>Music Video Due</b> Assignment: Read Poetry Handout
TBA	Special Event - NYC Art Trip Assignment: Art Review
11/11	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
11/18	Hate Groups; War: Protest and Propaganda; <i>Why We Fight</i> ; <b>Art Review Due</b> Assignments: Reaction 6; Project 2
11/25	Class Project Meeting; Preliminary Project 2 Discussion <b>Preliminary Bibliography Project 2 Due</b> <b>Reaction 6 Due</b>
12/2	<b>Class Presentation: Project 2</b> <b>Class Project Due</b> Evaluations

There is no final examination in this course.