

Artists as Activists

ART 212

Dr. Debra Torok

torokd@moravian.edu, 610-861-1624, Hours by Appointment

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

Fall 2015
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. 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 Laurie Roth 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)

- 9/1 Introduction; Survey; Interpreting Art
Invisible Children and Social Media
Assignment: Read Chapter 1 in text (see assignment sheet)
- 9/8 Media Activism: *Is This What Democracy Looks Like?*
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Assignments: Billboards; Read Chapter 2 in text; Reaction 1
- 9/15 **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); Preliminary Bibliography for Project 1
- 9/22 Controversial Art; *The U.S. vs. John Lennon*
Reaction 2 Due
Activists Organizations and the Arts
Preliminary Projects Due and Reviewed
Assignments: Reaction 3; Project 1
- 9/29 **Class Presentations: Project 1**
Reaction 3 Due
Assignment: Read *Introduction to the Photographer's Eye* (handout)
- 10/6 Special Event
Assignment: Reviews (Due 12/8)
Read Chapter 6
- 10/13 Fall Break
- 10/20 Activism and Photography; Class Project Meeting
Assignments: Read Chapter 7; Photography Assignment
- 10/27 *Degenerate Art*; A Sampler of Interpretations
Photography Assignment Due
Assignments: Reaction 4; Read Chapter 8
- 11/3 Environmental Activism: *Gasland*; Class Project Meeting
Reaction 4 Due
Assignments: Reaction 5; Music Video
- 11/6 (Fri.) Special Event - NYC Art Trip
Assignment: Art Review
- 11/10 The Impact of Music Videos
Reaction 5 Due
Music Video Due
Assignment: Read Poetry Handout

- 11/17 Introductions to Alfredo Jaar, Anna Deavere Smith, Harun Farocki, Ai Weiwei, and Harry Wu; Class Project Meeting
Assignments: Preliminary Bibliography for Project 2; Read *Propaganda in Peace and War* (handout); Read *Looking at War* (handout); Class Project
- 11/24 Hate Groups; War: Protest and Propaganda; *Why We Fight*;
Art Review Due
Assignments: Reaction 6; Preliminary Bibliography for Project 2
- 12/1 Class Project Meeting; Preliminary Project 2 Discussion
Preliminary Bibliography for Project 2 Due
Reaction 6 Due
- 12/8 **Class Presentations: Project 2**
Class Project Due
Special Event Review Due
Evaluations

There is no final examination in this course.