

MWF 12-1:20pm SMI 304**Instructor:****Timea Tihanyi** timea@u.washington.edu

Office hours: M 1:30-2:30pm or email for appointment ART 328J

Teaching Assistant:**Amanda B. Waterman** abw4@u.washington.edu

Office hours: TBD

Course description

ART120 introduces you to the reoccurring themes and practices in the visual arts. Moving beyond medium-based categories, the course surveys a diverse range of issues that motivate artists and create content in **contemporary art**, visual art of the present. During lectures and discussion sessions we will examine the importance and implications of the visual arts in the larger context of visual culture. We will consider how cultural, social, economical and technological changes have impacted the field of contemporary arts and how artists have responded to these changes. The emphasis of the course is on providing you with tools to engage contemporary art on discursive, critical, and intellectual levels. Weekly thematic lectures provide an overview of significant art movements, ideas, and artists related to the selected topics within the theme. The lectures create a contextual framework for the information and assignments presented. In addition, guest artists and other art professionals are invited to speak about their own work and art making process. Assigned readings, site visits, and other research projects provide an opportunity to engage with ideas in a more focused way, as well as to create a starting point for in-class discussions.

Course website: <http://courses.washington.edu/art120>**Students Responsibilities and Requirements**

- Participate in all lectures (Monday, Wednesday, Friday of each week)
- Complete weekly reading assignments and occasional site visits as assigned
- Complete weekly homework assignments as assigned (writing assignments: 1 single spaced page; other types of assignments: please consult online weekly assignment schedule for requirements) Unless otherwise announced, assignments must be submitted through your "COLLECTIT" DROPBOX in CATALYST WEB TOOLS by Sunday at 11pm.
- Complete peer-reviews
- Be prepared for and participate in class discussions
- Complete and present final assignment
- Complete Vocabulary Quizzes

This is an intense course that requires you to engage in regular activities of research, reading, writing, and visiting selected exhibition venues on a weekly basis. The workload is intensive; you should expect to spend 2 hours out of class for every hour you spend in class. In fact, the more time and energy you put into the course, the more you will get out of it. You are responsible for your own progress; the instructor and the TA are there to guide and aid your progress along the way of exploring contemporary art. Keeping your eyes, ears, and mind open for the many forms of art, even if they appear contrary to your preferences or preconceived notions, is essential. You'll find this process of discovery engaging and intellectually rewarding. You are encouraged to participate actively, develop innovative ideas

and critical thinking, and test the boundaries of art and your own understanding of what art can be; a process that will result in an extremely valuable learning experience.

Homework assignments

This is a writing credit course (W-Course).

There is a homework assignment every week. Homework assignments should be completed in a timely manner and submitted through your DROPBOX in CATALYST WEB TOOLS by **Sunday at 11pm**.

Remember to bookmark the DROPBOX or simply follow the link from the course website's Schedule page to it. When you are in the DROPBOX, find the assignment posting of the current week and attach your assignment as an Adobe PDF **.pdf** file.

No other file formats will be accepted unless otherwise specified in the assignment description. Please make sure that you are saving your document in the correct format. If you have Microsoft Word 2007 or newer, the default file format is docx. **Take care to save your file as a PDF before you upload it to Catalyst.**

The system will log your file with the time and day of submission. Please be aware that unless otherwise noted the DROPBOX **will not accept late submissions**. Even if you are a minute late, you no longer will be able to upload your assignment.

For computing help, please see the TA or contact CATALYST. Click **here** for more information on how to save your document.

Note: When you are using CATALYST WEB TOOLS, you'll have a chance to set up your user profile, notifications, as well as to try a variety of additional web tools. You may access CATALYST WEB TOOLS from anywhere, any time by going through the main CATALYST site and clicking on "Web tools LOGIN" at the top of the page. This will take you to a page that lists all the UW Web tools you are currently participating in. Alternatively, you can simply follow the link from the Schedule page or bookmark the URL.

The assignment will be described in detail during the Monday lecture and will also be available on the course website in advance. The assignment may include research, site visit, and will culminate in writing. If you are asked to submit images, please embed them in the pdf file.

The homework assignment is not optional; it is the most significant demonstration of your keeping pace with what's being discussed in class.

Homework will be assessed regularly, with written feedback from the instructor, TA, and your peers.

Homework grading criteria

A successful homework assignment:

- Answers all questions posed;
- Clearly presents your point;
- Demonstrates your knowledge and research, including information from lectures, site visits, and reading assignments;
- Provides critical analysis and connects ideas;
- Is well supported with appropriate use of examples (artist's name, piece's title, etc);
- Uses proper vocabulary, including appropriate terms from the vocabulary list;
- Reflects your opinion and personal experience, expressing original thought;
- Uses clear and concise composition. Written in full sentences.

Reading assignments

Required textbook:

Jean Robertson and Craig McDaniel: THEMES OF CONTEMPORARY ART 2nd Edition

Oxford University Press 2009
Available at the UW Bookstore \$39.95

Electronic Reserves:

In addition to the textbook there will be a number of short readings available on electronic reserve through the library.

To access them, go to UW Libraries online <http://www.lib.washington.edu/> and find "Course Reserves" under "Using the Libraries" in the bottom left column. Access to electronic reserves is UW restricted; it will ask you to log in using your UW netID.

A weekly list of required readings is available in the Schedule and online so that you can do them in advance to the lectures. You will need to complete these readings in order to participate in class discussions and succeed in the homework assignments.

Supplemental readings are there to provide additional examples or original texts by artists, art critics, philosophers, and art historians.

Final Writing Assignment

The Final requires you to synthesize concepts from the various topics discussed throughout the quarter.

It will be introduced during the lecture and there will be plenty of opportunities for consultation on your plans and research during the last two weeks of the quarter.

Evaluation of the projects will be based on the strength of the concept, overall content, project development, and presentation.

For detailed information, see link to "Final Assignment" on top of the page.

Finals week: Presentation of selected blogs and books: Thursday, March 15, 2012 Classroom: SMI 304

This is our last class meeting. You'll be able to pick up your book project at this time.

Site visits

As assigned, you are responsible to visit a "site" such as a museum, gallery, public art, or other venues. Sites are selected in correspondence to the week's topics, focusing on some form of visual art currently on view. It is most important to do the site visits in order to experience art in person (as it was intended to be experienced) and to explore the various local art venues. Site visits are an excellent resource and reference to be used in the homework assignments.

Peer-review

An essential part of this course is the peer-review of weekly writing assignments. For detailed information, see link to "Preparation" on top of the page.

Quizzes

There will be vocabulary quizzes occurring in class every week on the previous week's vocabulary terms. The current vocabulary list is available on the website and each term will be discussed during the lectures and/or in the readings in detail. However, there will be no one-sentence definitions given for memorization. This means that part of your research is to explain/define the term in a meaningful and concise way, in your own words. It is a good idea to write your definition on a flashcard, compare and practice regularly with your colleagues. If you are unsure of the meaning of certain terms, please seek help during office hours.

Grading

Homework assignments + Vocabulary quizzes:	55%
Final Project:	25%
Participation:	20%

All class activities during lectures, including Q cards, critiques, and discussions; maintaining an active engagement with all aspects of the class.

There is a total of 200 points possible to earn.

Homework assignments will be evaluated by the following point system:

9-10 = Excellent understanding of concepts, clear points, supported by research findings and examples in a well-rounded presentation. Critical thinking is creatively and effectively applied.

5-8 = Demonstrates some research and a good understanding of concepts. Ideas are supported by appropriate use of examples.

1-4 = Demonstrates a minimal understanding of basic concepts and vocabulary, with minimum research or effort needed for completion.

0 = Missing /late assignment or NO demonstration of an understanding of the basic concepts.

Expectations and Policies

- You will derive the greatest benefit from this class if you remain alert, follow the material presented, ask questions and interact with the instructor, guest speakers, and your colleagues.
Why not sit in the front row?
- Just because the class is large it does not mean that you are invisible: If you want to surf the web, send text or email messages, listen to music, play games or do homework for your other classes, there are better places to do these activities than in this class.
Practice common courtesy toward the speaker and your peers; do not prevent others from learning.
- Complete homework assignments and projects on time; late work WILL NOT be accepted.
- There are NO make-ups for missed quizzes, homework assignments, and any in-class activities under any circumstances.
- **Missing the Final Project or more than 3 quizzes, homework assignments, or peer-reviews will result in failing (E) grade and no credit earned.**
- Absences from class prevent participation and may negatively affect grades.
- If sudden illness, emergency or random act of nature should prevent you from attending class, you are responsible for following up with a classmate, receiving any assignments, and completing them ON TIME.
- Absolutely NO cell phone calls are to be taken or made during class.
- Turn off and put away all electronic devices: cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, etc. for the entire duration of class.
- Use of a laptop in class is OK, as long as it is being used for note taking.
- Class begins and ends at the appointed time. Arrive on time and plan to stay for the entire duration of class. In the exceptional case when you do need to leave early or arrive late, take every precaution to not to disrupt the speaker.

- **Plagiarism is defined as using in your own work the creations, ideas, words, inventions, or work of someone else without formally acknowledging them through the use of quotation marks, footnotes, bibliography, or other reference.**

Please check with your instructor if you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

Instances of plagiarism will be referred to the Vice Provost/Special Asst to the President for Student Relations and may lead to disciplinary action.

- **Equal Opportunity**
The School of Art reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran in accordance with UW policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.
- If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, (206) 543-8924 (V/TTY). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, please present the letter to me as soon as possible so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for the class.