

Purchase College, Winter Session 2016 (Online):

Instructor: Jim Bergesen

Email: course mail (and in the event course mail is not available james.bergesen@purchase.edu)

Online Office Hours: To be announced – **a weekly online chat time will be available.**

General Course Description:

The first distinctly American modern movement in art, Abstract Expressionism, burst onto the international scene around 1950. American artists then pioneered the major movements of Pop art, photorealism, earth art, and minimalism, while simultaneously participating in the more international developments: happenings, environments, conceptualism, neo-expressionism, and new figuration. Students explore the multiple directions in American and European art from 1945 to the present.

Prerequisite Knowledge:

No prerequisites required, however please note this is an advanced level course with an intensive schedule. Critical thinking and inquiry to interpret artwork will be required. Previous art or art history course helpful, but not required.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course fulfills the SUNY general requirement and learning outcome for The Arts:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of at least one principal form of artistic expression and the creative process inherent therein.

Course Learning Outcomes include major aspects of Contemporary Art.

Students will learn:

- The ability to articulate and communicate clearly in written and spoken forms, Research skills including the ability to analyze and synthesize information.
- Responsibility to others and our community Respect, tolerance and openness to new ideas and ways of thinking as demonstrated through Discussion Sections.
- To think critically, independently and creatively.
- Core knowledge and understanding of the history of Contemporary Art and related concepts, theories, and major events.
- A critical analysis of different art forms demonstrated through visual literacy and the use of Contemporary Art images.

As well as learn to:

- Describe and critique art, using the "language of contemporary art."
- Use critical thinking and inquiry to interpret contemporary demonstrating inquiry and informed observation.
- Recognize contemporary art, identify and understand the historical influence of art since 1945.

Primary course objectives include student engagement in the following areas: the creative processes involved in the production of art, understanding the historical context of art forms in different contemporary periods, and the exploration of art from conception through completion. With a strong foundation of theories and processes in hand, students can more fully understand the historical and critical

nature of contemporary works of art.

Artists and their works are placed in historical perspective in order to understand more fully the similarities and differences in art forms, cultures, social issues, and the ultimate communicative intent of the art work. Learning the "language of art," in order to speak and write about art, and to think about art through language (not only visually), will help students better understand both contemporary art and the language of art.

The critical processes involved in this course encourage thoughtful analysis and development of personal conclusions about a given work of art. Reading of artists and observing their works of art provides additional insight and emphasizes more effective visual communication and problem solving, as well as critical thinking. Sharing these insights with fellow students and the professor in asynchronous discussions empowers everyone involved with valuable, individualized, advanced tools for communication.

Learning Activities:

There three types of learning activities in Contemporary Art, each with its own purpose:

- **Reading:** The reading and viewing is intended to help you understand the history and nature of "Contemporary Art," the how & why artists create art works. You'll read and learn about histories, various elements and various art forms. You will also learn about how the art was received and how to interpret art.
- **Discussion:** The Discussion Forums are intended to help you further explore and think critically about the information you are reading and viewing. Your ability to clearly explain your ideas and questions and support them with appropriate resources is the key to demonstrate a solid understanding of the subject you are learning. Each module will have three discussions: on the assigned readings text and supplemental, and you will be required to share and critique each others essays.
- **Writing:** The written assignment(s) observational compare & contrast essay is intended to provide a place to more fully describe and analyzed art of artists we are studying in this course. Essays are submitted for grading through Turn-it-in measured against the assignment guidelines.

Students will use the required class text: "Art Since 1900: 1945 to the Present" (Second Edition) (Vol. 2) and "Theory and Documents of Contemporary Art" (Second Edition) Kristine Stiles & Peter Selz . You may buy or rent and ship books from: <http://www.purchasebookstore.net/> Students are expected to participate in class discussions to help them further explore and think critically about the course's information, enabling them to apply specific concepts to a focused question, and to exchange ideas with each others. Students are expected to complete assignments intended to deepen their understanding Contemporary Art. Finally, students are expected to complete written assignments designed to enhance understanding of important concepts. Overall learning activities provide different ways for the student to more fully describe, analyze, interpret as well as experience art.

Course Structure and Requirements:

See the [Course Schedule with Due dates](#) for specific due dates. Due dates are also noted in the Moodle Calendar.

Online attendance and participation, Reading assignments, Three Quizzes**, Nine Discussion Sections, and a Final Paper assignment are all required.

** Quizzes will consist of Image Identification (Title, Artist, & Date), Multiple Choice, True/False, and

Short Answer. You will be permitted to take the Quizzes twice and the highest grade will be used in the final grade calculation. The Quizzes will be available on Friday through Sunday.

Method for Evaluation:

Final Grade will be based on the following Graded Activities:

Quiz Number One 10 %
Quiz Number Two 10 %
Quiz Number Three 10 %
Full Online Discussion Forum Participation* 45%
Final Paper assignment 25%

*NOTE: Read course document “[Discussion Guidelines and Expectations](#).” Discussion participation will be evaluated on the quality of discussion responses which must contain clear and substantive content, be spell-checked and well written, with references cited in support of arguments.

Required Texts:

“Art Since 1900: 1945 to the Present” (Second Edition) (Vol. 2)
Hal Foster, Rosalind Krauss Yves-Alain Bois , Benjamin H. D. Buchloh, David Joselit.

“Theory and Documents of Contemporary Art” (Second Edition)
Kristine Stiles & Peter Selz.

Additional Readings:

Some supplemental readings are assigned within the weekly Modules and will be posted as PDFs.

[Important Notes on Academic Policies, Procedures and Documented Disabilities:](#)

PURCHASE COLLEGE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The Purchase College Academic Integrity Policy

<<http://www.purchase.edu/Policies/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>> explicitly forbids cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another person and the representation of them as one's own original work. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the definition of plagiarism and the acceptable methods of attribution. Violation of any of the above may lead to formal disciplinary action and the following sanctions:

Minimum Sanction: Failing grade on the assignment or examination. Maximum Sanction: Expulsion

Recommended Sanction (First Offense): Failing grade for the course Recommended Sanction (Second Offense): Expulsion

Students who have any questions or doubts about whether any activity is academically permissible, should check with me first.

DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES

Students with documented physical, learning, psychological and other disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations. If a student needs accommodations, he or she must first register with the Office of Special Student Services; please call 914 251-6035 or accommodations@purchase.edu.

You can find a description of special student services provided by the Counseling Center at:

<http://www.purchase.edu/Departments/SpecialStudentServices/>

Moodle is ADA compliant; you can find the accessibility at:

http://docs.moodle.org/dev/Moodle_Accessibility_Specification