

Sam Houston State University

*College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication*  
*Department of Art*

**ARTS 1302, SECTION 03**  
**EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY ART**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall Semester, 2017  
Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 – 4:50 PM

***Class Location:*** Art Complex, Bldg. E, Room 108  
***Instructor:*** Christopher Cascio  
***Office Location:*** Huntsville Campus, Art Complex, Bldg. A, Room 105  
***Instructor Contact Information:*** (936) 294-1321  
E-Mail: cfc005@shsu.edu  
***Office Hours:*** Tue/Thurs 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (please make appointment)

***COURSE DESCRIPTION:*** From the museum and printed page, to the electronic image and the worldwide web, creative expression finds its way into the everyday experiences of culture throughout the world. This course presents a critical analysis of seven major themes in contemporary art, providing students with an appreciation of the artifacts of human imagination. Through the processes of synthesis and interpretation, students will engage in critical, creative, and innovative communication about contemporary works of art. This course is for non-majors. Pre-requisites: none. Credit: 3

***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

During this course, students will demonstrate through written analysis, discussions, exams and a final project, their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of:

1. contemporary art, its lineage and importance in modern culture.
2. how artists influence our view of the modern world.
3. how and why we respond to the artifacts of contemporary art.
4. the current dialogue that surrounds the creation, exhibition, and discussion of new works of art.
5. international and intercultural influences on the world of contemporary art.

***TEXT/RESOURCES***

Title: *Ways of Looking*  
Author: Ward, Ossian  
Edition: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
ISBN-10: 978-1-78-67-193-2  
Publisher: Laurence King Publishing

***MUSEUM POLICY***

In this course you are required to visit both the Menil Collection Museum and the Contemporary Arts Museum *in Houston* at least once, and on your own time. They are both free of charge and near enough to each other to see both in a few hours. You will also be required to view an on campus exhibition. Please be advised that if you fail to meet this requirement you cannot

complete the midterm (worth 15% of your overall grade). If you live more than 100 miles from Houston contact me directly, and another option can be discussed.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

In accordance with University Policy, regular attendance is both required and expected and will be necessary for successful completion of the course. More than three unexcused absences can and will affect your final grade by a full grade point.

- 1.01 Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.
- 1.02 It is expected that each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.
- 1.03 Each faculty member will announce to his/her classes the policies for accepting late work or providing make-up examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations.
- 1.04 A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences at the discretion of the instructor.
- 1.05 Each instructor is obligated to clarify his/her classroom policy regarding absences in writing to each student enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester or summer session.

If you have more than three unexcused absences, your final grade will drop a grade point. Six absences will drop it two grade points. More than nine absences will result in a failing grade.

### **GRADING POLICY**

Students will be evaluated by performance on graded assignments, tests, papers and a group project as follows:

Daily assignments may be in the form of fill-in-the-blanks quizzes, short essay responses, class discussions or additional research, and will deal with the unit's assigned readings and lectures.

Papers must be at least 1000 words, 1.5 lines spaced and typed.

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <i>Daily assignments are worth 50 points</i>  | <i>11 x 50 = 550</i> |
| <i>Papers are worth 150 points</i>            | <i>2 x 150 = 300</i> |
| <i>Group Presentation is worth 150 points</i> | <i>1 x 150 = 150</i> |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | <i>1000 points</i>   |

The total possible for the course is 1000 points. Ultimately, letter grades must be assigned to course work. Under the definitions established by Sam Houston State University, students who receive the following letter grades are considered to have reached the level of attainment defining that letter. Thus, letter grades may be interpreted this way:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| A= Excellent          | D= Barely passing |
| B= Well above average | F= Failure        |
| C= Average            |                   |

| Final grade | Total points within this range |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| A           | 900 to 1000                    |
| B           | 899 to 800                     |
| C           | 799 to 700                     |
| D           | 699 to 600                     |
| F           | Below 600                      |

## NOTES:

1. No grades will be "curved" or adjusted.
2. There is no extra credit offered in this course
3. Instructor cannot post grades publicly or give them to you over the telephone. All grades will be posted on the course website, however.
4. Check the class schedule online at SHSU.edu for deadlines for dropping courses without grade of F, and the last day for resignations without receiving WP or WF marks.

### **MAKE-UP POLICY**

Students are allowed to submit late assignments up to one week past their original due date. Beyond that one-week period, the grade will become a zero. Quizzes and tests will be taken during the week in which they are released. Beyond that one-week window, it will become a zero with no chance for make-up. True medical *emergencies* may mitigate the above. Complete documentation must be provided.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [http://www.shsu.edu/~slo\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~slo_www/)

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are

exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)

#### **VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. This policy does not apply to online courses, although students are expected to complete their own work in the course.

#### **USE OF PHONE & TEXT MESSAGING IN THE CLASSROOM**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please *turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins*. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Again this policy does not apply to an online course.

#### **DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY**

Do not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray. Defacing university property is prohibited by university policy. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities.

#### **TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

|             |      |                                    |
|-------------|------|------------------------------------|
| Week One:   | 8/24 | Welcome and Introduction           |
| Week Two:   | 8/29 | "Introduction to Looking Again"    |
|             | 8/31 | Assignment #1                      |
| Week Three: | 9/5  | "Art as Entertainment"             |
|             | 9/7  | Assignment #2                      |
| Week Four:  | 9/12 | View <i>Cremaster 3: The Order</i> |
|             | 9/14 | Assignment #3                      |
| Week Five:  | 9/19 | "Art as Confrontation"             |
|             | 9/20 | Assignment #4                      |
| Week Six:   | 9/26 | "Art as Event"                     |
|             | 9/28 | Assignment #5                      |

|                |       |                           |
|----------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Week Seven:    | 10/3  | "Art as Event"            |
|                | 10/5  | Painters...               |
| Week Eight:    | 10/10 | "Art as Message"          |
|                | 10/12 | <b>Mid-Term Paper Due</b> |
| Week Nine:     | 10/17 | "Art as Message"          |
|                | 10/19 | Assignment #6             |
| Week Ten:      | 10/24 | "Art as Joke"             |
|                | 10/26 | Assignment #7             |
| Week Eleven:   | 10/31 | On Campus Gallery Visit   |
|                | 11/2  | Assignment #8             |
| Week Twelve:   | 11/7  | "Art as Spectacle"        |
|                | 11/9  | Assignment #9             |
| Week Thirteen: | 11/14 | <b>Group Project Due</b>  |
|                | 11/16 | <b>Group Project Due</b>  |
| Week Fourteen: | 11/21 | <b>Group Project Due</b>  |
|                | 11/23 | "Art as Meditation"       |
| Week Fifteen:  | 11/29 | Assignment #10            |
|                | 11/31 | Assignment #11            |
| Finals:        | 12/5  | <b>Final Paper Due</b>    |

While every effort has been made to prepare this syllabi and course schedule in final form, it will be the instructor's prerogative to make any changes as may be deemed necessary in order to meet the learning outcomes of the course. Student will be notified in writing of any change.