

Course Outline
Fall 2013

Valdosta State University – College of the Arts – Art Department

(Revised 12/11)

ARTH 4120A ISSUES IN CRITICISM

Dr. Lai Orenduff

Tuesday and Thursday 5:00 – 6:15PM

Room: UC 2004

Office: UC 2009 Office Hours: Monday 9-11AM, Wednesday 3-5PM

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TEXT: *Interpreting Art*, Terry Barrett

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion Issues in Art criticism, each student should demonstrate:
Successful identification of different critical theories
Successful application of formalist critique
Successful application of research information in oral presentations and written work

COURSE OUTCOMES: In addition to acquiring a broad knowledge of the theory and practice of art criticism, this course meets the following educational outcomes:

- 1.Students will present an oral presentation demonstrating critical thinking and theory skills.
(VSU-4, DOA-1, COA-2)
- 2.Students will incorporate interdisciplinary relationships including literature, the humanities, and social sciences orally and in written assignments. (VSU-2, DOA-1,COA-2)
- 3.Students will argue aesthetic viewpoints based on a mastery of critical theory in assignments.
(VSU-7, DOA-1, COA-2)

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY:

Your performance and subsequent success in this course is directly related to your attendance.

Each student is allowed ONE absence before impacting your final grade.

If you are absent on the day of an exam or other graded event such as a presentation, you will receive a zero for that grade unless you have an excused absence like a note from the health center or other medical facility or a letter from a university official (like sports, recitals, etc.).

Two tardies will translate into one absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of class.

If you come in late it is your responsibility to make sure you notify the instructor.

If you arrive and/or leave early without having previously advised the instructor as to the reason for this, you will be counted absent for that day.

A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receive a failing grade for the course. This is university policy.

Approximately half of the class sessions will be devoted to lectures and class discussions on topic in criticism drawn from our readings. The other half of the class sessions will be devoted to student-led presentations and discussions.

Each student will be assigned a work of art that he/she will research and criticize based on principles of criticism learned in class.

In addition, all students will be required to attend 3 out of 4 shows that will be presented during the fall in the VSU Gallery (see Schedule below). Each student will select a work in the show and write a brief criticism, around 2-3 pages.

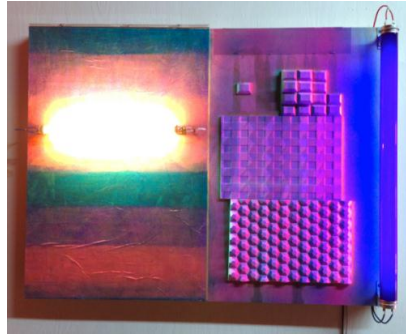
Schedule of VSU Art Gallery Shows



Aug 19 – Sept 6: *VSU Art Faculty Show*



Sept 16 – Oct 4: *Emerge*



Oct 14 – Nov 2: *We Two Founts*



Nov 19 – Dec 2: *Fall Senior Exhibition*

COURSE GRADE:

1. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions and activities reflecting thoughtful reading of assigned materials will make up 10% of the course grade.
2. Two examinations will make up 20% of the course grade.
3. The three critiques of works from the VSU Gallery will count for 20% of the course grade.
4. The oral presentations will count for 30% of the grade.
5. The final exam will be the final 20% of the course grade.

GRADING CRITERIA:

A (100-90)

- Expresses original, clearly reasoned, and textually-supported opinions.
- Writing is clear, well-organized and thoughtful.

- Contribution is valuable with original ideas and insights.

B (89-80)

- Good factual understanding of material.
- Thorough preparation is made for discussion.
- Ability to present primary ideas, themes, and relationships is made in a well-organized and coherent manner.

C (79-70)

- Displays grasp of basic points of works, texts and themes.
- Class participation is sporadic.

D (69-60)

- Assignment is incomplete or late.
- Work lacks clarity or accuracy.
- Participation is lacking.

F (59-0)

- Assignments are incomplete, late or not submitted.
- Work is confused, inaccurate or unclear.
- Sources are cited improperly or not at all.
- Little or no effort is made to participate in class.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

1. Cheating or plagiarism results in an “F” on that assignment or exam.
2. 5 points are deducted from 1-day late assignments; 10 points are deducted from 2-days late assignments; 15 points are deducted from 3-days late assignments. Anything later than that results in a failing grade.
3. All electronic devices (lap tops, cell phones, pagers, iPods, etc.), unless approved by the instructor, are to be turned off during class as a courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students. If you do not do so, or cannot refrain from using your cell phone for any reason, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of class. The instructor will allow the use of tape recorders for purposes of note taking during lectures. Any student who may find it necessary to do so may use electronic translators for exams and /or quizzes after checking with the instructor. Also, College of the Arts policy **prohibits any food or drink in labs or classrooms.** Two points will be deducted from your final average each time for using your cell phone during class.
4. All students will fill out faculty evaluations online.

STUDENT ACCOMODATIONS:

Students Access (physical or learning disabilities)

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. **See the instructor as soon as possible, if special arrangements need to be made.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/access>

Students Success Center

The Student Success Center (SSC) at Valdosta State University is located in Langdale Residence Hall above the Tech Shop and is available to all students. The SSC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The SSC also provides free professional academic advising and on-campus job information in one location. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or [visit the website: www.valdosta.edu/ssc](http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc).

☐ Student Code of Conduct Academic Integrity Violations - Cheating & Plagiarism: p. 61 of the Student Handbook
<http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook.shtml>

College of the Arts policy **prohibits any food or drink in labs or classrooms**. Students should fill out faculty evaluations online.

Tentative Course Outline (subject to change depending on progress)

Date: *activity/topic/ reading*

Aug 13: Introduction-syllabus, assignments, etc.

Aug 15: What is art? Art and the Modern Subject/ *Ecce Mono Discussion*

Aug 20: Aesthetics, Creating Art, Writing a Review.

Aug 22: Aesthetics/Philosophical theories of Art: An Application

Aug 27: Intelligent Seeing: Description/Analysis of Form/Formalism

Aug 29: Iconography and Iconology/ *Rain Room Discussion*

Sept 3: Iconography and Iconology

1st Critique Due

Sept 5: Critical Theories

Sept 10: Critical Theories /*Lawrence Weiner Discussion*

Sept 12: First exam

Sept 17: Interpreting Art – Principles- Chapter 8- Barrett

Sept 19: Interpreting Art – Principles- Chapter 8- Barrett/*Discovering Columbus Discussion*

Sept 24: About Interpretation: René Magritte, Chapter 1- Barrett

Sept 26: About Interpretation: René Magritte, Chapter 1- Barrett

Oct 1: Multiple Interpretations of one work of art: Édouard Manet, Chapter 2- Barrett

Oct 3: Multiple Interpretations of one work of art: Édouard Manet, Chapter 2- Barrett

2nd Critique Due

Oct 8: Interpretation and Judgment: Controversial Art, Chapter 3 – Barrett

Oct 10: Interpretation and Appreciation: Abstract Painting, Chapter 4. /*Ann Hamilton Discussion*

Oct 15: Abstract Painting – Chapter 4.

Oct 17: Abstract Painting – Chapter 4.

3rd Critique Due

Oct 22: Abstract Painting – Barrett Class Discussion – Shapiro, "The Social Basis of Art"/

Student Presentations I - IV

Oct 24: Abstract Painting – Barrett Class Discussion – Shapiro, "The Social Basis of Art"/

Student Presentations V - VIII

Oct 29: Second Exam

Oct 31: Interpreting Old & Foreign Art, Chapter 5-Barrett

Student Presentations IX - XIII

Nov 5: Interpreting Old & Foreign Art, Chapter 5-Barrett

Student Presentations XIV - XVIII

Nov 7: Interpretation and Medium: Photography, Chapter 6 – Barrett

Student Presentations XIX - XXII

Nov 12: Interpretation and Medium: Photography, Chapter 6– Barrett

Student Presentations XXIII - XXVI

Nov 14: A Sampler of Interpretations, Chapter 7 – Barrett

Nov 19: **Presentation papers due**

Nov 21: Review for finals

Thursday Dec 5: Final Exam 7:15 - 9:15PM Room 2004

List of Student Presentation Options

Fall 2013

1. Rego, *Dancing Ostriches*, 1995
2. Gentileschi, *Susanna and the Elders*, 1610
3. Flack, *Queen*, 1975
4. Skoglund, *Radioactive Cats*, 1980
5. Cai, *Head On*, 2006
6. Bellini, *San Giobbe Altarpiece*, 1485
- 7.
8. Shad, *Self-Portrait*, 1927
9. Fischl, *The Old Man's Boat*, 1982
10. Neshat, *Turbulent*, 1988
11. Saville, *The Mothers*, 2011
12. Shonibare, *Last Supper*, 2013
13. Piccinini, *The Carrier*, 2012
14. Biggers, *Blossom*, 2010
15. Sherman, *Untitled Film Still no. 6*, 1977
16. Karas, *Two Dancers*, 2009
17. Manet, *Dead Toreador*, 1864
18. Picasso, *Crucifixion*, 1930
19. Van gogh, *A Pair of Shoes*, 1886
20. Van Eyck, *Arnofini Portrait*, 1434
21. Bernini, *Rape of Persephone*, 1622
22. Klimt, *Judith and Holofernes*, 1901
23. Ghirlandaio, *Portrait of Giovanna Tornaboni*, 1488

24. Balthus, *Girl and Cat*, 1937
25. Currin, *The Old Fur*, 2010
26. Cox, *The Liberation of Lady J and UB*, 1996
27. Cattelan, *Toilet Paper*, 2010
28. Ellsworth Kelley, *Red-Orange*, 1964
29. El Anatsui, *Stressed World*, 2007
30. Degas, *Interior*, 1869

Instructions for Presentation

You will first decide which critical theory(ies) you want to apply to your assigned work of art.

You will then do research. Your goal is to prepare a five page critique of your assigned work that you will present in class. You are encouraged to use slides, digital images, and/or handouts to facilitate class understanding and participation. Each presentation should take at least 10 minutes.

After your presentation you will answer questions and lead a discussion about the work and your interpretation of it. After your presentation is completed, you will rewrite the 5 page paper taking into account points made in the discussion.

The final version of the paper is due **one week after the presentation.**

Your grade will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- How well you knew the artist (Biographical)
- How well you explained the artwork (Formal analysis)
- How well you communicated the importance of the artist and artwork
- How well you located this artist in a specific context (Art Historical)
- How well you used critical theory to explain the work
- How professional your presentation was.

Possible questions to guide your research might include:

1. Question: Why did this artist use an exaggerated scale? Is it just a matter of style?
2. Question: What political agenda did each of these artists have? What about their style?
What is the historical event involved ?
3. Question: Every picture should have a story to tell. How do these invite further investigation?

4. Question: Many artists use this medium. What is the specific purpose?
Why are these works more effective as photography?
5. Question: Why did these artists choose this medium since these artists also create in other mediums?
6. Question: The actuality of the objects used in these artworks bring a focus to the material.
How does this affect the reception of the work?
7. Question: These artists are concerned with paint itself. This is a topic started in the Modern Period.
Why are these artists so concerned with the physicality of the paint?
8. Question: Why do these artists choose this genre of painting?
How does their style reinforce their motivation?
9. Question: How is space an important element in these works?
10. Question: Most art is influenced by earlier art or artistic concepts.
How is this goal shown in these works?

Instructions for Gallery Critiques

- 1) Each critique should contain factual information: artist's name, title of the artwork, date the artwork was created, medium, and approximate size of the artwork.
- 2) Each critique should also have a description of the work in your own words.
- 3) All papers must be typed on clean white paper, double-spaced with no more than 1" inch margins all around. Please use Times New Roman font no larger than 12 pt. Please check for spelling errors and grammatical errors before handing the paper in. Points may be deducted if your paper contains spelling and grammatical errors. No report covers please.
- 4) No longer than three pages.
- 5) All critiques will include at least one footnote.

