COURSE INFORMATION
3:30pm – 4:50pm Tuesday/Thursday (Sec 001)
3 hours; Synchronous Remote Delivery via Zoom

Professor Christopher Green
christopher.green@unt.edu
Please allow up to 24 hours for a response by email.

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Virtual via Zoom; sign up for an appointment on Canvas.

Course Description
This course explores selected theoretical and critical issue in contemporary art, with a focus on the interpretation and theoretical frameworks of art produced from 1989 to the present. Guided by the question “What is Contemporary Art?,” we will examine texts by a variety of artists, scholars, critics, and thinkers that engage some of the predominant theories of contemporary art in operation today, including gender and queer theory, performativity, site specificity, institutional critique, decolonial theory, new materialisms and thing theory, ecocriticism, and theories of the archive, process, form, and duration. These theories will be explored through art ranging from painting and sculpture to performance, film, new media, digital, and post-internet art.

This course will leave students with an understanding of the key theoretical concepts and artistic trends guiding visual art of the past three decades. We will connect these concepts to local and international works of art and explore how they frame the globalized network of exhibitions, biennials, and art fairs that make up the contemporary art world. Students will engage art criticism as a genre of analysis and gain an understanding of how contemporary curation is guided by theoretical concepts and arguments.

- Prerequisite(s): ART 1200, ART 1300/1301, ART 2350, ART 2360, or ART 2370; or consent of instructor.
Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, a student who has satisfactorily completed the course will be able to:

1. Identify contemporary works of art based on recognition of visual forms and describe the works of art using discipline-specific terminology and vocabulary;
2. Identify theories of contemporary art, their contexts, and how they apply to works of art that reflect them;
3. Write cogently in favour of a specific theoretical interpretation of a work supported by visual and historical analysis;
4. Organize a selection of works of art around specific issues or theories and communicate the nature of that chosen framework to an audience;
5. Articulate theoretical connections and aesthetic relationships across different cultural, geographic, and historical boundaries;
6. Be able to visit museum collections, special museum exhibitions, galleries and other venues and demonstrate knowledge of visual literacy.

Materials

The following course textbook is available for purchase from the UNT Campus Bookstore:


Selections of this text are required reading, and the book is a recommended purchase. Inexpensive used copies are available online, however please purchase the 2nd Edition. All page numbers provided in the syllabus correspond to the 2nd Edition. Additionally, you will be required to read or view online materials through Canvas and other resources. Two books will provide primary texts throughout the semester and students may find them to be a worthwhile purchase:


Content Disclaimer

Art can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, racist or stereotypical representation, violence, or blasphemy. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college’s practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.
Technical Requirements and Assistance
Because this course will take place online, access to hardware and software necessary for participation in synchronous lectures and discussion held over Zoom is required. This includes speakers or headset, microphone, keyboard, internet access, word processor, and Zoom-accessible device (desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone).

If at any time personal circumstances or working conditions make it impossible to access the minimum required hardware and software for participation, please inform the instructor as soon as possible to attempt to make alternative arrangements.

UIT Help Desk: [http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940.565-2324

Student Academic Support Services
- [Code of Student Conduct](#): provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links
- [Office of Disability Access](#): exists to prevent discrimination based on disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#): provides counseling services to the UNT community, as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing, and other tests
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [UNT Learning Center](#): provides a variety of services, including tutoring, to enhance the student academic experience
- [UNT Writing Center](#): offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate and graduate, including online tutoring
- [Succeed at UNT](#): information regarding how to be a successful student at UNT

Attendance and Participation
This class will contain a mix of participatory lectures and seminar-style discussion classes delivered through the Zoom client in Canvas. Your participation in all and any discussion is assumed, and students are expected to come to class having completed all the required readings and prepared to discuss the material. Students are expected to be in virtual attendance for the entirety of the class meeting. Video is encouraged but not required to be enabled at all times. Audio is required to be enabled at all times, but should be muted unless you are called upon to ask or answer a question or otherwise contribute to the discussion.

The participation grade will be negatively affected by disruptive or non-engaged behavior. Any student whose behavior is deemed disruptive or detrimental to the class will be asked to leave and marked absent. Virtual attendance is reviewed at the conclusion of each class. All students are expected to be present for the duration of the class time. If you are either late to the class session or leave it early by...
more than ten combined minutes, you are responsible for explaining the missed time to the instructor or he will assume it is intentional. If you are late twice, it will count as an absence. Students are permitted four “no questions asked” absences. A fifth absence, for any reason, will result in your being withdrawn from the class.

All class absences are considered unexcused unless shown to be otherwise. If you know you are going to be absent from a class due to an unavoidable prior commitment and/or religious holiday, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor at least 24 hours in advance in order to make alternative arrangements.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Student behavior that interferes with the instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. This may include excess noise from students’ microphones, disruptive video or screen activity, or distracting background imagery or activity in a student’s video feed. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the virtual classroom or removed from the conference call by the instructor. The instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity Policy
Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Any suspected act of dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” in the course. Further, the professor will write a letter to the Dean of the School of Visual Arts and the Dean of Students, who will pursue disciplinary actions at their discretion.

According to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, plagiarism is defined as “the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as one’s own without acknowledgement” (www.unt.edu/csrr). Copying material from any source without providing a citation (footnote or endnote) is a form of plagiarism. Likewise, if you paraphrase another author’s words or ideas, you must credit that person with a citation. While most incidents of plagiarism at the graduate level are unintentional, it is your responsibility to ensure that you accurately indicate which words and ideas are those of others.

Assignments and Grading
Assignment Policy
Unless otherwise noted, assignments must be submitted by the beginning of the class on the date they are due. Assignments should be submitted as Word documents (.doc or .docx) with the student’s last name, course number, and assignment title in the document name (eg. “Green_AEAH4814_Assignment”...
1.doc”. Assignments should be submitted via Canvas unless otherwise noted. If there are technical difficulties or server outages, students may submit assignments to the instructor via email listed above.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing an assignment on time, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Late Work
Late work will be accepted for completion until the conclusion of the semester. However, for each class period an assignment is late, a half letter grade will be deducted down to an ‘F’.

Assignments

1. **Reading Response** (2pg double-spaced) – Every student will be assigned a week of the schedule for which they will be a discussion leader. Students will be expected to lead the discussion of the readings for the rest of the class. On the day you are assigned as discussion leader, you are required to submit an individually written response to the assigned readings of the week. Reading responses should demonstrate an engagement with and critically respond to the assigned texts; they should not be summaries.

   **Due Dates:** See discussion leader assignments posted to Canvas

2. **Exhibition Review** (4pg double-spaced) – This assignment will ask students to pick an exhibition of contemporary art from a provided list, view the exhibition online, and write a critical review of the exhibition. Students will be expected to accurately describe the exhibition for the reader and critically analyze its organization, framework, and choice of included works. See the assignment handout to come for further details.

   **Due Date:** October 15

3. **Exhibition Project** – At the beginning of the semester, students will be organized into teams of five to six. Each team is responsible for curating a virtual exhibition. Teams must choose one of the major theories or topics of the course and choose six to ten works of art that visually express the chosen theme. Students will submit a virtual exhibition, object checklist, short abstract or introduction explaining the exhibition’s central premise, and an object label of 150-300 words for each of the included works. In the final week of classes, each group will give the class a virtual tour of their exhibition and briefly describe its central premise and chosen works of art.

   **Presentations:** December 1 and 3
   **Final Exhibition Due Date:** December 11
Grading
Final grades are calculated by the following weighting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Response</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition Review</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Virtual Exhibition Tour</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exhibition Project</td>
<td>300 points</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000 points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale = 100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-900</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>899-800</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>799-700</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>699-600</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>599-500</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Syllabus Change Policy
This syllabus is a living document that may be updated throughout the semester. Students are expected to keep track of all changes as communicated and/or updated through the course portal.

SCHEDULE
This schedule is tentative and is subject to change.

Week 1 – What is Contemporary Art?
August 25: Course Introduction
  • For discussion: what do you think is contemporary about art?

August 27: Contemporary Art and Contemporaneity
Week 2 – Surface and Form

September 1

September 3
- Julie Mehretu, Marlene Dumas, William Kentridge, and Wengechi Mutu in Stiles and Selz, Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art, 73-76, 308-313, 320.

Week 3 – Politics of Aesthetics and the Social

September 8
- Claire Bishop, “Antagonism and Relational Aesthetics” (2004), in TICA, 164-193

September 10
- Situationist Manifesto, 17 May 1960, reprinted in Internationale Situationniste #4 (June 1960)
- George Maciunas, Fluxus Manifesto, 1963

Week 4 – Site, Space, and Monument

September 15

September 17

Week 5 – Institutions of Critique
September 22
• Andrea Fraser, “From the Critique of Institutions to an Institution of Critique,” Artforum (September 2005), 100-105.

September 24

Week 6 – Appropriation, Readymade, Replication
September 29

October 1
• Douglas Crimp, “Pictures,” October 88 (Spring, 1979), pp. 75-88
• Sherrie Levine, “Five Comments,” in Stiles and Selz, Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art, 379

Week 7 – Photography in/as Archive
October 6
• Ariella Azoulay, “Potential History: Thinking through Violence,” Critical Inquiry 39, no. 3 (Spring 2013), 548-574

October 8
• Hal Foster, “An Archival Impulse,” October 110 (Autumn 2004), 3-22

Week 8 – Screen Duration
October 13

October 15
• Martha Rosler, ‘Video: Shedding the Utopian Moment’, in Stiles and Selz, Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art, 376-78.
Week 9 – Gendered and Queered

October 20

October 22
- Steven Nelson, “Transgressive Transcendence in the Photographs of Rotimi Fani-Kayode,” *Art Journal* 64, no. 1 (Spring 2005), 4-19
- Zoe Leonard, “I want a President,” 1992

Week 10 – Poor Image and the Database

October 27

October 29

Week 11 – Decolonial/Deimperial

November 3

November 5
- MTL+ in *October* Questionnaire on Monuments, 119-133

**Week 12 – Matter and Thing Theory**

**November 10**

**November 12**
- Browse: World of Matter http://www.worldofmatter.net/

**Week 13 – Ecocriticism and Environment**

**November 17**

**November 19**
- Jessica Horton, “Drones and Snakes,” *Art in America* (October 2017), 104-9

**Week 14 – On Curating Contemporary Art**

**November 24**
*Guest Speaker: Erin Joyce, Fine Arts Curator, Heard Museum*


**November 26 – THANKSGIVING (No Class)**
December 1: Group Exhibition Walkthroughs

December 3: Group Exhibition Walkthroughs

*Final Exhibitions due December 11, 11:59pm CDT.*

**UNT POLICIES cont’d**

**ADA Policy**
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

**Emergency Notification & Procedures**
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Retention of Student Records**
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

**Access to Information - Eagle Connect**
Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more
information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: 
[eagleconnect.unt.edu/](eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**Student Evaluation Administration Dates**
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at [http://spot.unt.edu/](http://spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

**Sexual Assault Prevention**
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565 2759.