Instructor: Jacquelyn Delin McDonald, Ph.D.  
Email: jacquelyn.mcdonald@unt.edu  
Meeting Times: MTWTh- 1-2:50 pm  
Room- ART 280  
Office Hour: W 3-4 pm or by appointment  
Summer II 2022: 06/26- 07/28  

Art History 4801.002- Topics in Art History  

TOPIC: Nazi Looting, Provenance, and Restitution-  
This course will study the massive scale of Nazi art looting that occurred during WWII, as well as the resulting need for provenance research and ethical restitution practices. The propagandistic Nazi regime forged its political ideologies into the realm of art, as they wished for a purification/Aryanization of their visual world-deeming many Modern works as ‘degenerate.’ Their plight included systematic looting from collections across Europe for Hitler’s planned museum in Linz. And, notably, many Jewish collections were taken under extreme duress. Even 80 years later, there is much to be done, efforts to return art to their rightful owners continues by tracing ownership to points of a forcible sale. From these efforts, other works taken under duress or during ‘cultural conflict’ are now being considered for their layered history. This course will also discuss the trajectories of provenance research, ethics of restitution, and museum collection practices- as the display of art plunder has often been a by-product of military conquest and colonialism.  

Course objectives:  
1. Students will learn to examine works of the visual past to better understand their culture(s), economies, and class relations considering diverse perspectives.  
2. Students will implement critical thinking with close reading.  
3. Students will develop their research and writing skills.  
4. Students will work together to analyze conceptual frameworks, defend arguments, and analyze works formally during course discussions and presentations.  

Required Texts: Articles/Chapters/Online Databases via Course Reserves/Canvas  

Writing Standards: As ARTH 4801 is an upper-level course, the quality of student writing is expected to meet an advanced college-level. There are several written assignments throughout this semester where students will need to be proactive and work independently via research, drafting, and editing to perform well in this course.  

Technology policy: I do not allow the use of cell phones, or recording devices in the classroom, except by special permission. (If you have a disability requiring ODA accommodations, please provide me with the documentation (see below)). All devices must be silenced and put away during class to avoid distractions. I prefer that students do not use laptops or tablets during class to avoid distractions. Writing notes on paper has been proven to increase retention of information.
due to kinetic learning. However, if you must use a laptop/tablet for taking notes or viewing articles, please ask for permission after class or via email. If you are in a situation where you may need to have your phone out (and on vibrate) due to personal circumstances, please let me know at the beginning of class.

**Attendance:** You are allowed up to 2 unexcused absences this semester, lecture notes or slides will not be provided, and it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate. If you have a longer illness, please submit your documentation to the Dean of Students for an accommodation letter to excuse your absences. Please make every effort to be on time for class. Students who consistently arrive late, leave early, or take long restroom breaks during class will not only miss important information covered in class, but will receive marks off their Participation/Discussion grade. Please take the time we have together in our course each week to learn and engage with your classmates.

**Course Disclaimer:** Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be offensive to some students on the grounds of sexual explicitness, 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.

**Student Support:**

*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 (https://disability.unt.edu/).

*Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)*- The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.
**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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**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.

All work submitted for a grade in this class must be written in your own words and original to this term. You may not copy or transcribe anyone else’s material, including but not limited to websites, museum publications, books, or articles. You may not reuse work previously uploaded or submitted to this or any other class, either your own or another person’s. Students may not share exam/quiz questions or answers in any format, including but not limited to verbal, written, digital, and image-based communication. Students found to violate this policy will be sanctioned with penalties ranging from zero on the assignment to a failing grade in the course. All offenders will be reported to the university.

**Course Assignments Breakdown**
- Reading/Discussion: Write ups – 15%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Research Paper/Presentation: 30%
- Participation/Discussion: 15%
- Final Reflection Paper: 10%

**Course Rubric**
- A: 100-90
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 or below
(out of 100 points, or 100%)

**Course Assignments**

*Write-ups* - At the beginning of the semester, students will select two different topics/themes to produce a summary of each of assigned reading(s) for the day. Students will also provide three discussion questions, which they will prompt to their classmates during in-class Discussion. (7.5% each, 15% total)

*Quizzes* - There will be two quizzes this semester. Each quiz will draw information from the course readings, as well as visual material and artworks covered in class. Questions will consist
of short answer, image identifications, True/False and multiple-choice questions. The quizzes will not be cumulative; however, ideas will thread through the entire semester. (15% each, 30% total)

**Final Paper/Presentation**- Each student will be required to produce an 7-8 page paper over a relevant topic/artist for our course. Additionally, a short Powerpoint (or similar) presentation will be required to share research with classmates during a 6-8 minute presentation. A handout and a list of sources will be provided to aide assignment. (30%)

**Class Participation/Discussion**- All students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. It is imperative for the course, that all participate regularly to consider all perspectives. To encourage the free exchange of ideas, students must respect and listen to each other. Students are encouraged to disagree with the authors, other students, or the professor within class discussion, however, students must remain cordial and collegial. If students treat any persons disrespectfully, they will be asked to leave the classroom. While in class, I expect students to be engaged- looking to their readings, participating in class discussions, etc. In the case that discussion is not constructive, I reserve the right to administer unannounced quizzes or assign in-class writing assignments that will count toward your participation/discussion grade. If students are texting, chatting, napping, or otherwise inattentive in class, they may be asked to leave and marked as absent. (15%)

**Final Reflection Paper** – At the culmination of our course, students will produce a 2-3 page paper to prepare for final discussion. Expectations and rubric will be explained in handout. (10%)

**Course Calendar with Required Readings**
*(Subject to change at the discretion of the professor)*

**Week One: Introduction, The beginnings of Nazism- Aryanization, ‘degenerate art’**

- Monday, June 26 – Syllabus; Introduction to Course
- Tuesday, June 27- “Art and Crime?” FDR Speech, and Excerpt from *Spoils of War*
- Thursday, June 29- Excerpt from *The Lost Museum*

**Week Two: The Plundering of Europe**

- Monday, July 3 – Excerpt from *The Rape of Europa*
- Tuesday, July 4 – No Class, July 4th Holiday
- Wednesday, July 5- Excerpts from: *The History of Loot and Stolen Art*
Thursday, July 6– Quiz 1

**Week Three: Allies/Monument’s Men/After the War**
Monday, July 10– Excerpt from Edsel, *Monument’s Men*

Tuesday, July 11– Excerpt from Kurtz: *America and the return of Nazi Contraband*

Wednesday, July 12– Excerpt from *Lost Art*, “Justice v. the Law: Restitution of Holocaust-Era Looted Art”

Thursday, July 13– Herman, “Hildebrand Gurlitt, the Monument’s Men and the Discovery of the Munich Art Trove” and from *The Atlantic*, “The Persistent Crime of Nazi Looted Art”

**Week Four: Relevant Topics/Research**
Monday, July 17– *ArtNews*– “MoMA’s Problematic Provenances” and “Human Objects, Object Rights: from Elgin’s Marbles to Bullock’s Laplanders”

Tuesday, July 18– Quiz 2// Work Day


Thursday, July 20– Group 1, Presentations
* *(07/20- Last day to drop a course with a W).*

**Week Five: Final Presentations/Discussion**
Monday, July 24th- Group 2. Presentations

Tuesday, July 25- Group 3. Presentations

Wednesday, July 26- Group 4, Presentations

Thursday, July 27- Who owns culture?//Final Discussion Day,
*Reflection Paper Due by 11:59 pm
Excerpt- Vadi and Schneider “Art, Cultural Heritage and the Market: Legal and Ethical Issues”*