Instructor: Professor Way  
Course meetings: Wednesdays, 2:00-4:50  
Course location: ART 219  
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:45-4:45pm; please schedule in advance through email  
Email Jennifer.Way@unt.edu

AEAH 4800.001 METHODOLOGIES OF ART HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Methodologies of Art History and Visual Culture. 3 hours. Examination of methodologies associated with art history and visual culture studies. Taught as a seminar, with emphasis on readings, oral presentations, and written assignments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate what a method is
- Demonstrate that published art history writing applies a method
- Identify and define key methods in art history scholarship
- Analyze how methods are used in published art history scholarship
- Analyze what significance a method has for published art history scholarship
- Use methods to generate questions about an object or a feature of its history, creation, or use

STRUCTURE

This course asks you to learn about key methods used in current art history scholarship. In addition to writing about methods, as a demonstration of your learning you will develop an annotated bibliography examining the ways published scholarship applies a method. Additionally, you will write a reflection paper analyzing the opportunity and challenge of engaging with methodology in your own work.
On a weekly basis, we will examine a method or a genre of methods through individual reading and writing, group discussion, and individual assignments. The course uses a wiki to archive the syllabus along with assigned readings that are not already available electronically. To join the wiki you receive an email invitation to which you must respond in the affirmative. https://arthistorymethods.pbworks.com/w/page/55545510/FrontPage

Unless otherwise stated, you must complete all readings assigned before class begins. During class, you will want to easily find and access this material along with your notes, which you will need for discussion. Therefore, if you do not have a laptop, computer, or device to bring readings and your notes to class electronically, please see the professor about checking out technology from the college. Finally, please bring to class something to write with on hard copy in the event we work on an activity during class.

EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICIES

THIS COURSE HAS 3 TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS: RR, AB, and RP

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“RR” – READING RESPONSE

The total possible RR assignments numbers 12. You must complete 8, and you choose which to complete. You need not inform the professor ahead of time. For those classes for which you elect not to submit an RR assignment, you remain responsible for completing all of the assigned reading.

This assignment covers all of the readings listed in the syllabus for a class. You may overly emphasize one of the readings. However, ensure that you take all of them into consideration, and synthesize what they contribute to the questions.

Write the assignment in your own words. You may paraphrase and quote from the readings, in which cases you provide footnotes, endnotes, or in-text references (your choice) and you explain the material you paraphrased and quoted.

The assignment consists of 3 parts. Respond in a Word document typed double-space, in about 3.2 pages.

1. Part 1 (500 words or less)
   a. Identify what is the method or what are the methods addressed in the readings
   b. Define/explain the methods
      i. What are its key concepts
      ii. What are its activities associated
      iii. Address what the method considers as evidence
   c. Remember to explain how the method relates to any of these elements of research
      i. Subject of research
      ii. Time period (year, decade, era, century) of research
      iii. Geography of research
      iv. Objects of research
      v. Makers of objects
      vi. Users of objects

2. Part 2 (100 words or less)
   a. Summarize how the method contributes to art history research or shapes art history research

3. Part 3 (200 words or less words)
   a. Apply the method to your work of art by posing one question that reflects it.
   b. Provide a paragraph outlining what research you would pursue to apply the method in answering the question.

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“RP” – Reflection paper

5 points

You may submit this completed assignment at any time between week 6, October 2, and week 8, October 16.

Write a paper identifying what challenges you have in understanding or using art history methodology. Explain what features offer opportunities to grow as an art history student, and how you might apply them going forward in your studies in art history. Treat the assignment as an essay having an introduction, a discussion with evidence, and a conclusion. Typed double space, 600 words or less.

“AB” – Annotated bibliography

15 points

This assignment is due on the last day of class, December 4.

From one of the four classes for which you did NOT write an RR assignment, select one.

Identify what is the method addressed in the readings. Define and explain it.

1. Find 3 examples of published scholarship that use the same method in the humanities.
   a. Consult the UNT library catalog and databases to find examples.
   b. Consider articles, books, and exhibition catalogs.
   c. Do not use random finds from a google search.
   d. You must select examples we are not reading already.
2. At the top of your paper, provide a bibliographic citation for each example.
3. In an essay of 250 words or less for each example, demonstrate that the published scholarship uses or applies the method and explain how it uses or applies the method.
   a. Treat the essay as an argument you make that
      i. demonstrates that the essay uses the methods
      ii. provides evidence of how the essay uses the method.
9. you may describe, summarize, paraphrase and provide quotations
   1. remember to explain what matters about any material you quote
RESOURCES

Your professor is your best resource for this course. Go to office hours. Ask for guidance. Talk with other professors, too.

The Art Collection [of books] is now located on the 3rd floor of the Willis Library. All art books of all art disciplines are together with the rest of the humanities in one library that is open 24/7.

Research Help at CVAD Your UNT Art Reference Librarian is Rebecca Barham: (940) 565 - 4405, Rebecca.Barham@unt.edu. It is your responsibility to know how to use the UNT Libraries and access information relevant to your coursework. As early in the semester as possible, you are strongly encouraged to work with Rebecca to locate secondary and primary resources for your assignments, in journals, exhibition and collection catalogs, auction records, books, encyclopedias, and databases.

Examples of online resources

Bard Graduate Center, online catalog search https://www.bgc.bard.edu/library/2/overview
British Library, online catalog search http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpprestdtype/catblhold/all/allcat.html
Dallas Museum of Art, online collections search https://collections.dma.org/
Dictionary of Art Historians https://dictionaryofarthistorians.org/index.htm
Heilbrunn Timeline of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/chronology
Library of Congress, online catalog search https://catalog.loc.gov/
New York Public Library, online catalog search https://catalog.nypl.org/
Smithsonian Institution Research Information System, online search https://siris.si.edu/
Southern Methodist University central library, online catalog search https://www.smu.edu/cul/
Texas Woman’s University library, online catalog search http://www.twu.edu/library/
Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, online catalog search, http://library.metmuseum.org/screens/opacmenu.html
University of North Texas Libraries, online catalog search http://www.library.unt.edu/
Victoria and Albert Museum, online collections search http://collections.vam.ac.uk/information/information_basicsearching

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## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

### Week 1 – the life of the maker

**August 28**


Then, read about the same artist in *Benezit Dictionary of Artists* – online database available through UNT Libraries.

Next, read the following material. In what ways does it help you understand those accounts? What questions does it raise about them?


Before class ends, everyone will select their own object to use in all RR assignments for the remainder of the semester.
Week 2 - THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LOOKING

September 4

Grove Art Online – online database available through UNT Libraries
“Technical examination”
“Connoisseurship”


Week 3 - OBJECTS IN THE WORLD  
RR  
September 11

Grove Art Online - online database available through UNT Libraries
“Provenance”


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“Collecting,” in Grove Art Online – online database available through UNT Libraries


Week 5 - SOCIAL CONTEXTS
RR
September 25

Grove Art Online - online database available through UNT Libraries
“Social history of art”
“Marxism”


### Week 6 – HISTORIOGRAPHY
**RR**
**RP—UNTIL 10/16**
**October 2**

To be determined...

### Week 7 – GENDER
**RR**
**RP—UNTIL 10/16**
**October 9**

Grove Art Online – online database available through UNT Libraries  
“New art history,” “Feminism and Art,” “Queer Studies in America”


© Jennifer Way
Grove Art Online - online database available through UNT Libraries
“Iconography”
“Narrative and the visual and literary arts”


Week 9 - Post-colonialism

October 23


“Shared authority,” *Art in America* 105 no 9 (October 2017): 76.

Week 10 – Reception

RR

October 30


Week 11 – MEANING MAKING, 2

November 6

Bann, Stephen. “Semiotics,” Grove Art Online– online database available through UNT Libraries


Week 12 - STYLE AND FORM

November 13

Grove Art Online – online database available through UNT Libraries
“Style”
“Formalism”


Week 13 - RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT – SUBJECTIVITY
RR – SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY, THANK YOU!
NO CLASS MEETING SO YOU CAN WORK INDIVIDUALLY TO ADVANCE YOUR “AB” ASSIGNMENT

November 20


Mansfield, Nick. ‘The free and autonomous individual,’ in Subjectivity: Theories of the Self from Freud to Haraway (NYU Press, 2000)

Hall, Donald E. ‘Descartes and the “I”,’ in Subjectivity (Routledge, 2004)


Week 14 – No class – Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27

Week 15 – Final class

AB

December 4

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POLICIES

Academic integrity expectations and consequences (UNT Policy 06.003) http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf

ADA accommodation statement (UNT Policy 16.001)
"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."

American Disabilities Act
The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methods when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before a accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

Assignment policy
For all assignments, instructions are distributed prior to the due date. It is up to you to understand the assignment fully and seek assistance when needed. Please speak to the professor if you are unclear about an assignment, or if you miss a deadline or. No late work is accepted. Make up work is not available.

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Attendance expectations and consequences (UNT Policy 06.039)

Each student is permitted two absences. No written documentation is necessary, nor will any be collected. Subsequent absences will likely reduce the final course grade at the discretion of the professor. Students who habitually arrive late or leave early will be marked absent at the discretion of the professor. Note that missing class does not excuse you from an assignment due before or during class. Perfect attendance is rewarded with a bonus of 2 points added to your final course grade.

Building emergency procedures
In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.

Campus Health and Safety

Emergency: Dial 911
UNT Police: 940-565-3000
Denton Police: 940-349-8181 (non-emergency)
Denton County Sheriff’s Office: 940-349-1600 (non-emergency)
Student Health and Wellness Center: 940-565-2333
Counseling and Testing Services: 940-565-2741

Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities
The following statement reminds students of their rights and responsibilities within the academic community – “Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information.”

Course Risk Factor
According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category one course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students will be informed of any potential health
hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

Evaluation for Assignments:

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SCREEN POLICY [TECHNOLOGY IN CLASS]: Phones must be turned off unless the professor says otherwise. If your phone rings more than once during class in the classroom, your final course grade will be reduced at the professor’s discretion, you will be asked to leave class and that class will be counted as an absence.

NOTE: Professor Way retains the right to change the syllabus with or without notice.