Course Syllabus

Graduate art history methods

Fall 2020

If you get sick or have circumstances that are complicated or difficult, please reach out to Professor Way so she can help to provide the support that you need—Jennifer.Way@unt.edu

- Instructor: Professor Way
- Office Hours: Monday 1:00-4:00 pm, by scheduling an appointment through Jennifer.Way@unt.edu for a Zoom meeting
- The most direct, fastest way to reach me about anything is outside of Canvas, by email Jennifer.Way@unt.edu

UNT 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.

Course Description

What is your purpose in art history?

How do you define your art history work, methodologically?

What methods comprise your art historian tool kit, and why are they there?

A method is a way to do something. In this course, we study some of the major ways that art historians raise questions about art and think about, study, research, and aim to make sense of these questions in the scholarship they present at conferences and publish as journal articles, exhibition catalogs, books and online sites.

This course asks you to begin to learn about key methods in contemporary and historical art history practice. The emphasis here is on begin, because engaging with methods to understand and use them, and to create, establish, critique or change them, is part of the career-long work of many art
Historians. Today, right now, we hear strong calls to decolonize museums and art history. How do we do this—methodologically? In this course, we will apply content about methods to a number of questions and problems that help you reflect more deeply about current developments in art worlds and for historical inquiry. We need to examine what a method is and become aware of how art historians engage with methods, and realize what is important about methods for art history.

To these points, throughout the semester, ask yourself, what are methods for art history, and how do art historians use them? For what purposes do art historians use methods— to question or know or create knowledge, or to tell about something, to examine or analyze, to experience, or to change culture or society? Is there a use for methods in art history beyond generating knowledge? Crucially, what is your purpose in art history? How do you define your work methodologically? What methods comprise your art historian tool kit, and why are they there?

**Course Structure**

This course takes place online. We will hold synchronous video classes using Zoom.

The course meets weekly. You are expected to complete assigned reading and homework BEFORE class begins. During class, you are expected to participate.

After every class, course work is assigned and due by the following Tuesday evening. It is your responsibility to keep up with class material and assignments. If you have questions or problems, please reach out to the professor.

**Course Objectives**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Define what a method is and explain what it consists of
- Identify and analyze how methods are used in published art history scholarship
- Find published art history scholarship that uses a particular method
- Write a fictional letter to an art historian recommending they use a specific method and supporting why you make this recommendation
- Research and write an annotated bibliography for one method, consisting of annotation paragraphs for each of three sources written and published by a different scholar
- Use methods to generate questions about an object or a feature of its history, creation, or use or about its relationship to other objects or to an artist
- Apply one or more methods to ideate an answer to an art history research question
- Propose how you would revise a portion of the art history survey text by identifying one or more methods to achieve your revision
- Self-reflexively examine and analyze the importance of methods for your interests in art history
Prerequisites

This course is key to your major area of study. Therefore, it asks you to take a serious, committed, thoughtful and steady approach to your work. Showing up (online) and working on the material in a consistent way is really important.

To be successful in this course you will need to make the commitment to spend approximately six to twelve hours a week completing pre-class reading and assignments, attending class, reflecting on the material we covered, and completing follow-up assignments.

Required Texts

Readings are available online through Canvas or online through UNT Libraries or on the Internet. If you have problems accessing material, always contact the professor at Jennifer.Way@unt.edu.

Resources

Your professor is your best resource for this course. Schedule online office hours. Ask for guidance. Get to know other professors in the art history program, 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 including through online resources. As early in the semester as possible, you are strongly encouraged to work with Rebecca to identify secondary and primary resources for your assignments, such as journal articles, exhibition and collection catalogs, auction records, books, encyclopedias, and databases. The earlier you begin, the more time you will have to digest what you learn and make choices in your process.

Examples of online resources outside of the University of North Texas

Bard Graduate Library, online catalog search https://www.bgc.bard.edu/library/2/overview (Links to an external site.)

British Library, online catalog search http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpertype/catblhold/all/allcat.html (Links to an external site.)

Dallas Museum of Art, online collections search https://collections.dma.org/ (Links to an external site.)

Dictionary of Art Historians https://dictionaryofarthistorians.org/index.htm (Links to an external site.)
Heilbrunn Timeline of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art
http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/chronology (Links to an external site.)

Library of Congress, online catalog search https://catalog.loc.gov/ (Links to an external site.)

New York Public Library, online catalog search https://catalog.nypl.org/ (Links to an external site.)

Smithsonian Institution Research Information System, online search https://siris.si.edu/ (Links to an external site.)

Southern Methodist University central library, online catalog search https://www.smu.edu/cul/ (Links to an external site.)

Texas Woman’s University library, online catalog search http://www.twu.edu/library/ (Links to an external site.)

Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, online catalog search, http://library.metmuseum.org/screens/opacmenu.html (Links to an external site.)

University of North Texas Libraries, online catalog search http://www.library.unt.edu/ (Links to an external site.)

Victoria and Albert Museum, online collections search http://collections.vam.ac.uk/information/information_basicsearching (Links to an external site.)

**Course topics by week**

Week 1 August 26: your position in methods

Week 2 September 2: objects and images and the world

Week 3 September 9: lives and uses of art objects

Week 4 September 16: reception, engagement, and affect

Week 5 September 23: significance of looking

Week 6 September 30: researching iconography

Week 7 October 7: studying makers

Week 8 October 14: theory and historiography
Week 9 October 21: social context

Week 10 October 28: subjectivity and identity

Week 11 November 4: gender analysis

Week 12 November 11: postcolonialism, decolonizing, and intersectionality

Week 13 November 18: signs, narratives and counternarratives

Module 14 - week 14 - we're off! for Thanksgiving :)

Week 15 December 2: self reflection about using methods

**Assignments and grades**

Assignments are organized on a scale of 100 possible points to earn this semester.

- **Following every class**, you complete an assignment that relates directly to the class. It is due by the following Tuesday evening.
- During the semester, you must complete 7 out of 11 of these assignments. Which of the 7 you complete is up to you. You do not need to tell the professor when you are not submitting an assignment. Make sure to submit 7 of the assignments on time.
- **In addition**, there are 3 assignments you are required to complete that are not optional.

Thus, 7 assignments x 10 each = 70 points, plus 3 assignments x 10 each = 30 points; 70 + 30 = 100.

Additionally, **you are invited to complete an extra credit assignment** worth from 0 to 7 points added to your final course grade. Please read the instructions carefully and ask questions. It is due at the end of the semester. However, you are encouraged to begin working on this assignment by the middle of the semester. You are strongly encouraged to contact the professor to make sure you are eligible to submit the assignment for evaluation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Required or elective</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Worth points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>required</td>
<td>Week 1: self-reflection about using methods</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 2: querying object and world relationships</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 3: analyzing scholarship about the lives and uses of art</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 4: researching affect</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 5: applying looking approaches to art</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 6: iconography research questions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 7: what is important in studying artists</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td><strong>required</strong></td>
<td>Week 8: annotated bibliography and historiography</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 9: developing a social context approach</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 10: subjectivity and identity exhibition analysis</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 11: developing a gender analysis</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Must write 7 out of 11 possible</td>
<td>Week 12: post-colonialism and decolonizing</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health and Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency:</th>
<th>Dial 911</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNT Police:</td>
<td>940-565-3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denton Police:</td>
<td>940-349-8181 (non-emergency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denton County Sheriff’s Office:</td>
<td>940-349-1600 (non-emergency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Health and Wellness Center:</td>
<td>940-565-2333, <a href="mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu">askSHWC@unt.edu</a>, <a href="mailto:COVID@unt.edu">COVID@unt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling and Testing Services:</td>
<td>940-565-2741 <a href="https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services">https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNT Division of Student Affairs:</td>
<td>940-565-4909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Policies

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

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 an 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. Please email documentation to Apply.ODA@unt.edu or upload documentation via AIM Student Portal.

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 may reduce the final course grade at the discretion of the professor. Students who habitually arrive late or leave early online 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.

Attendance -- COVID-19 impact on attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to COVID-19 including symptoms, potential exposure, pending or positive test results, or if you have been given specific instructions to isolate or quarantine from a health care provider or a local authority. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.
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.

Class materials for remote instruction

This course is taught online. Students will need access to a webcam and microphone to participate in the class.

Class recordings

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university and professor, and they are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and will lead to disciplinary action.

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 (Links to an external site.) 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100 Point Scale Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Range</td>
<td>Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53-59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation range for course grade**

100-91  A  
90-81   B  
80-70   C  
69-60   D  
59-0    F Fail

**Late policy**

Assignments are due when the syllabus says they are due. No makeup assignments are offered. In general, late work is not permitted. That said, if you are having difficulties submitting your work due to illness, or injury, please reach out to the professor.

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