

2021 FALL METHODS

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Fall 2021

Methodologies in Art History and Visual Culture – 4800 and 5800

Instructor: Professor Way

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.

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Communication

- Instructor: Professor Way
- Office Hours: by scheduling an appointment through Jennifer.Way@unt.edu for a Zoom meeting or maybe for an in-person meeting, depending on the virus
- I read email during business hours on weekdays
- **To contact me by email, please do so outside of Canvas, writing to Jennifer.Way@unt.edu**

Course Description

What is your purpose in art history?

How do you define your art history work, methodologically, and in what ways is the purpose you want to bring to art history related to methodology?

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 art historians raise questions about art and think about, study, research, aim to make sense of, and

tell about art as they develop and complete research projects and make their work available in the scholarship they present at conferences and publish as journal articles, exhibition catalogs, books, and digital content.

Today, art history is being urged to decolonize collection, exhibition, and museum and art history knowledge and practices. Methodologically, how can we accomplish this, and in what other ways is art history practice changing or should art history change? Yet, are there concerns and ways of researching art that art history wants to retain? These are important questions that frame our work this semester as we explore how to understand art, treat it ethically, narrate or renarrate its significance, grasp its relationships to makers, times, places, users and uses, and on additional grounds explore art history's methodological concepts, aims, and practices. We won't learn it all, as this course asks us to begin to notice, understand, and use methods in art history practice. The emphasis here is on begin. Engaging with methods to understand and apply them, and to critique existing examples or create new approaches, comprises the career-long work of art historians.

Each week this semester we will examine what counts as a method and seek to become aware of how art historians engage with it and query what is important about it for the ways we ourselves want to practice art history. At the outset, reflect on your previous art history courses, or on your experience with works of art and art history scholarship. What methods have you used? Also, what can we observe art historians using today, and how and why do art historians use them—to question or discover something, or to highlight a particular interpretation or experience or analyze an object, person, group, event, place or time, or to represent culture or society? Is there a use for methods in art history beyond generating knowledge? Crucially, how will you shape your art history work methodologically? What methods will comprise your art historian tool kit, why will you select them, and how might you change them?

Course Objectives

- Define what a method is and explain what it consists of
- Identify published art history scholarship that uses a particular method
- Analyze how methods are used in published art history scholarship
- Write evidence-based recommendations for using methods
- Research and write an annotated bibliography for one method, comprising 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, a social context, or a maker
- 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 analyze the importance of methods for your interests in art history

Classes and modalities

The modality of our classes-- in other words, how it is offered, whether online through Canvas and Zoom, or face to face in a classroom--may change due to the virus, illness, or unforeseen factors. Please watch the announcements.

Prerequisites

This course constitutes a building block in your major area of study. It offers a key opportunity to inquire about, reflect upon, and begin to practice how the course content impacts your major and what you do with that major going forward. It necessarily requires that you take a serious, committed, thoughtful and steady approach to all course matters. There is no major exam or assignment to which the course builds and culminates at the end of the semester. Your work for class and the related assignments IS the course. To be successful in this course, commit to approximately six to twelve hours weekly 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, online through UNT Libraries, or through the professor.

How to Find Course Reserves (for students).

Go to <https://iii.library.unt.edu/search/r?SEARCH=arth+4800> (Links to an external site.)

If you have problems accessing material, always contact the professor at Jennifer.Way@unt.edu. If you are frustrated with any glitches in obtaining course material, please tell me so I can help you.

Resources

Your professor is your best resource for this course. Schedule online office hours. Ask for guidance. Get to know her and the other professors in the art history program. These are the people whose experience you can tap to think about how you will shape your career, and ask about opportunities and for the letters of recommendation that invariably accompany applications for internships, fellowships, scholarships, and study opportunities.

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](tel:9405654405), 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 Barham, UNT Art Reference Librarian, 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.

Assignments and grades

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

6 out of 11 assignments, 6 x 10 each = 60 possible points

- Following almost every class, you have the opportunity to complete an assignment that relates directly to the class. Some of these assignments build on activities we began during class. All give you choices.
- You must complete 6 out of 11 assignments, while at the same time, you elect to not write 5 out of 11. Which of the 6 you complete and which of the 5 you do not submit is up to you. You do not need to tell the professor when you are not submitting an assignment. However, you must elect to complete the assignment and then follow through by submitting your work for that week, by the deadline. Once the deadline has passed, the opportunity to work on that particular assignment has passed.
- Please make sure to submit each of the 6 assignments on time or early. Each is due the Monday following Wednesday's class, by 11:59pm. Please submit your work on time or early. If my computer shows the assignment was submitted at 12:03am Tuesday, your work is late and not accepted.
- **The one exception is the Revised Essay.** Everyone has one opportunity to revise a completed, submitted, graded, and returned essay. **The rules for the Revised Essay are:** submit your revised essay, together with your original graded essay, as one pdf document, no later than Monday November 29, 11:59pm. The revised essay may be any of the 6 out of 11 essays. It cannot be on a topic for which you did not submit an assignment originally. Be prepared to substantially revise the essay. If the revised essay earns a grade higher than the original essay, it will wipe out the lower grade.

1 assignment required x 10 = 10 possible points

- Your first assignment is required, not optional.

1 assignment required x 10 = 10 possible points

- Your last assignment is required, not optional. It builds directly on the first assignment.

1 assignment required x 20 = 20 possible points

- One required assignment is delivered about halfway through the course, and you have until after Thanksgiving to submit it. This assignment concerns historiography.

There is no extra credit work and no make up work.

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.) (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."

<https://teachingcommons.unt.edu/teaching-handbook/definitions-and-policies/unt> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

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.

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. No late work is accepted. Make up work is not available.

Attendance expectations and consequences (UNT Policy 06.039)

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (Links to an external site.) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> (Links to an external site.)) 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 also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

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 (Links to an external site.) (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:

Letter grade	100 pt scale	20 pt scale	10 pt scale
A	95-100	19.2-20	9.6-10
A-	90-95	18-19	9-9.5
B+	86-89	17.2-17.8	8.6-8.9
B	83-85	16.6-17	8.3-8.5
B-	80-82	16-16.4	8-8.2
C+	76-79	15.2-15.8	7.6-7.9

C	73-75	14.6-15	7.3-7.5
C-	70-72	14-14.4	7-7.2
D	60-69	12-13.8	6-6.9
F	59 or below	10.8	5.9 & below

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Aug 30, 2021	Assignment Week 1 assignment: self-reflection about your methodological toolkit and practice, I - required	due by 11:59am
Mon Sep 6, 2021	Assignment Week 2 assignment: querying object and world relationships - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 13, 2021	Assignment Week 3 assignment: analyzing scholarship about the lives and uses of art - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 20, 2021	Assignment Week 4 assignment - applying looking approaches to art - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 27, 2021	Assignment Week 5 assignment: researching reception, affect, or gaze - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 4, 2021	Assignment Week 6 assignment: iconography research questions - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 11, 2021	Assignment Week 7 assignment: studying makers - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 25, 2021	Assignment Week 9 assignment: developing social context research and analysis- submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 1, 2021	Assignment Week 10 assignment: engaging with subjects and subjectivities - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 8, 2021	Assignment Week 11: assessing how gender is practiced in art history - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 15, 2021	Assignment Week 12: recommending attention to critical race studies, postcolonialism, or decolonization, for exhibition, collecting, or archive projects- submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 22, 2021	Assignment Week 13: Being (there) proposal - submit 6 out of 11	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 29, 2021	Assignment Week 8 assignment: researching and writing an annotated bibliography and historiography - required due 11/29	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec	Assignment Week 15: self-reflection about using methods, II - required	due by

Date	Details	Due
6, 2021	Assignment Week 14: no assignment because of the Thanksgiving holiday	11:59pm

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