

2023 arthistorymethods

Fall 2023 Methodologies in Art History and Visual Culture – 4800.001 and 5800.001

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.

Communication

- Instructor: Dr. Way - Jennifer.Way@unt.edu
- Office (ART 312) Hours: by scheduling an appointment through Jennifer.Way@unt.edu for a Zoom meeting or a f2f meeting
- I read email on weekdays during business hours

What methods do you choose for your art history tool kit?

How do they relate to your purpose in art history?

What types of questions will the methods you work with, help you to ask about art?

How will they contribute to you achieving your goals in art history?

Course Description

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 integrating queering into its work and committing to decolonize its practices. Ecocritical approaches, Indigeneity Studies, Disability Studies, using social media for research, intersectional approaches to race, gender, and class, and calls for social justice are redressing traditional elements of the field, pointing in new directions, and impacting the questions we ask and the art histories we source, exhibit, tell about, and write.

Methodologically, how are art historians undertaking this work? At the same time, what queries and methods is the field retaining? These are important questions that frame our work this semester as we explore how art

historians research art, aim to treat it ethically, narrate and re-narrate its significance, and grasp its relationships with makers, times, places, users and uses. We won't learn it all, as this course simply asks us to begin to notice and understand methods we are already using and explore those that are new to us. The emphasis here is on begin. Engaging with methods to understand and apply them, and to critique existing examples and create new approaches, often comprises career-long study. Most of us will find ourselves at the beginning of this journey, which is a fine place to start.

Each week we will examine what counts as a method or a cluster of methods and seek to become aware of how art historians engage with them. As we move through the semester, take time to reflect on your previous and current art history courses, and on your experience with works of art and art history scholarship. What methods have you used? What methods seem to shape what you are studying in your art history courses? How do these approaches point towards specific types of questions, highlight a particular interpretation or experience, analyze an object, person, group, event, place or time, and link art to 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 use them?

Course Objectives

- Define what a method is and explain what it consists of
- Source published art history scholarship that uses specific methods
- Identify methods used in published art history scholarship
- Write evidence-based recommendations for using methods
- Research and write an annotated bibliography for one method
- Use methods to generate questions about an object or a feature of its history, creation, or use, 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 questions

Class meetings, topics, and assignment topics

- Class 1 Looking, and what other involvements?
- Class 2 From looking to knowing and being
- Class 3 Art as a material artifact
- Class 4 Lives of objects, 1
- Class 5 Lives of objects, 2
- Class 6 Bibliography, scholarly argument, narrative, and historiography
- Class 7 Iconography and semiotics
- Class 8 Studying makers
- Class 9 Subjectivities of makers and users
- Class 10 Gender and queering
- Class 11 Social contexts of reception
- Class 12 A discussion with Glenn Adamson, PhD
- Class 13 Postcolonialism and decolonization
- Class 14 Socially Engaged Art History
- Class 15 Digital art history and digital humanities

Classes and modalities

This course takes place f2f in ART 280. Occasionally, we may meet online through Zoom on Canvas. 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 the course content. 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. The class is the course. Your work for class and the related assignments is the course.** To be successful in this course, commit to approximately six to ten hours weekly in completing pre-class reading and assignments, attending class, reflecting on the material we covered, and completing follow-up assignments. Show up, learn, ask questions, do the work, and aim to do the best you can. Learn from your peers and your professor.

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> and use the password: AhmethodsF23.

You will need to use your euid, unt password, AND the password for the course: 48005800

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.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Resources

Your professor is your best resource for this course. Schedule hours. Ask for guidance. Get to know her and the art history professors in your program. These are the people whose experience you can tap to think about how you will shape your career, 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. Get to know Rebecca and talk with her about your projects for this class and your other art history courses. Ask for guidance in identifying image and text-based resources.

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.

UNDERGRADUATE assignments and grades

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

- For some undergraduates, this course feels very new and, in the ways it is different from other art history courses, it can feel confusing and even difficult to get your head around. If you feel this way and want to talk about it, let's talk. Typically, that feeling, if you have it, will settle down once you get into the rhythm of the course.
- Keep in mind that the course material or at least some of it, will probably be very new to you, which is completely fine. You are not expected to have knowledge of the course content prior to the course. On the other hand, what you can bring to the course and to your major, is the ability to ask questions even if it feels like you don't know what you are asking about, to make connections in course content, and to identify key ideas and think about their uses and their implications.
- Grades are based on assignments that are already part of your syllabus and that are integrated in the content and activity of pre-class and class work.
- Following every class except one, you have the opportunity to complete an assignment that relates directly to the class. Assignments build on activities we began during class and on reading and activities you were assigned to complete before class. All give you choices.
- **Undergraduate students must complete 9 out of 15 assignments, and each is worth 10 points.**
- Which of the 9 assignments you decide to complete and which of the 6 you do not, is up to you.
- **The only exception is that you must complete the assignment for November 8. So, you have the required November 8 assignment, plus 8 additional assignments you elect to complete and submit, and this equals 9 out of 15 assignments.**
- For all other assignments, you do not need to tell the professor when you are not submitting an assignment, really, you do not.
- Each of the 9 out of 15 assignments is due the Sunday following Wednesday's class, by 11:59pm. Work submitted at 12:01 am Monday is late and not accepted. Submit early to avoid any glitches. Once the deadline has passed, the opportunity to work on that particular assignment has passed, with the exception for one of the assignments, which you may treat as a **Revised assignment** (see below).
- Does submitting assignments for 9 of 15 classes mean you can miss 6 classes or sleep through them? No. For one thing, no matter what assignment you complete and submit, **it is assumed** that you are using course content from any and all classes that bear upon the assignment. In fact, better work keeps in mind the impact of previous classes on a current assignment. Also, **you have an assignment related to the 6 classes for which you do not submit the "regular" assignments**: In a paper of about 750 words typed single space, identify which of the 6 classes you did not submit "regular" assignments for, in other words, actually list the dates and the topics from the syllabus for which you did not submit an assignment. Then, explain what you contributed to these classes for which you were not submitting "regular" work. If you participated in a specific way, please remind me. If you contributed a set of questions or responded to questions or shared thoughts, etc., please remind me. If the class activity or discussion or readings helped you to understand something, identify what it is and what you understand. Feel free to provide commentary for each one of the 6 classes, or dive into something from a few of them that seems very important, or relate material across the classes. You want to demonstrate your presence in these classes and, more importantly, what you learned. This assignment is worth 10 points of your final grade and it is due towards the end of the term. So, this is an assignment that should compel you to attend all of the classes and take good notes that help you put this together and not scramble to try and remember something from two or three months ago.

- **Option to write an extra regular assignment.**
- Undergraduates may submit 10 out of 15 assignments, with the understanding that towards the end of the semester, the lowest grade will simply be dropped like it never happened. The dropping of the lowest grade will occur when you still have time to integrate anything you want to say about that class into your end of semester assignment about the 6 classes for which you didn't submit.
- **Revised assignment.** Undergraduate students have one opportunity to revise a completed, submitted, graded assignment.
- You may revise one assignment that you previously submitted on time and for which you received a grade.
- Submit as one Word document: your revised assignment plus the graded, original assignment.
- If the revised assignment earns a grade higher than the original essay, it will wipe out the lower grade.

GRADUATE assignments and grades

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

- In this course, take every opportunity to think through the material in terms of your related research interests. Ask yourself, what would this method, approach, concept, or theory look like in my research areas? How could I use this material to ask a research question, source material, and study material?
- Grades are based on assignments that are already part of your syllabus and that are integrated in the content and activity of pre-class and class work.
- Following every class except one, you have the opportunity to complete an assignment that relates directly to the class. Assignments build on activities we began during class and on reading and activities you were assigned to complete before class. All give you choices.
- **Graduate students must complete 10 out of 15 assignments. Each assignment is worth 10 possible points.**
- Which of the 10 you decide to complete and which of the 5 you do not, is up to you.
- **The only exception is that you must complete the assignment for November 8. So, the November 8 assignment, plus 9 assignments, equals your 10 required assignments.**
- For all other assignments, you do not need to tell the professor when you are not submitting an assignment.
- Each assignment is due the Sunday following Wednesday's class, by 11:59pm. Work submitted at 12:01 am Monday is late and not accepted. Once the deadline has passed, the opportunity to work on that particular assignment has passed.
- Expectations about class participation for graduate students are: you are present in class and not missing classes, you participate in class discussion and activity, and you participate well in small group work with undergraduates by serving as the leader for a group (when called for) and encouraging the participation of the undergraduate students. Fulfilling these expectations can make the difference in moving a borderline final course score from one grade to the next higher grade. Not fulfilling these expectations can make the difference in moving a borderline final course score from one grade to the next lower grade.
- **You have an opportunity to earn extra credit.** For every assignment over the 10 required that you submit, you will automatically earn 2 points added to your final course grade if the work you submit earns a grade of B or higher. There is no limit to this. If you want to complete and submit 15 assignments, then you can earn 5 extra credit assignments x 2 points added to your final course grade = 10 points added to your final course grade. This work must follow the instructions and deadlines for the assignment and you will submit it as a regular assignment. In other words, nothing about fulfilling

the assignment is different from you doing the assignment as part of your 10 required. If you like, you can tell me if you want the assignment to count for the extra credit. Note that the extra credit works ONLY if you submit the required 10 assignments and then do work beyond that. If you want to wait until the end of the semester, when your assignments add up in quantity and you have submitted over 10, at that point you can tell me which of your assignments you want to count as extra credit.

Course Policies

There is no extra credit work and no makeup work.

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.”

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](#) (Links to an external site.).**

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 -- COVID-19 impact on attendance (UNT Policy 06.039)

For each class you miss, you miss an incredible amount of content . Students are expected to attend every class meeting and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course, and two absences are permitted. If possible, communicate with the professor prior to being absent, so you can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Do not come to class if you feel ill or if you are sick. 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. 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 illness([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. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

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.”*

Class materials for remote instruction

This course is taught in person. Occasionally, we will meet on Zoom instead of f2f. For any classes held on Zoom, students will need access to a webcam and microphone to participate in the class, and students are expected to be present, on camera, during the duration of the class.

Class recordings

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. Students may not record class without the permission of the instructor.

Contesting a grade

If you are not happy with your grade, or if you feel there has been an error or oversight, write a clear, full explanation of what you feel is wrong. Also, provide clear, full evidence supporting your suggestion for a change of grade. This material is due no later than three days after you received the grade. It needs to be emailed directly to the professor as an attachment in Word. **Before proceeding along this pathway, you are strongly encouraged to share your concerns or questions with the professor.**

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:

100 Point Scale Grade	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
53-59	F

Evaluation range for course grade

100-91	A
90-81	B

80-70	C
69-60	D
59-0	F Fail

Letters of recommendation

To request a letter of recommendation, please contact me with a description of the opportunity and a current version of your resume including a list of art history courses with the grades you earned, along with your UNT GPA and your art history program GPA. Plan to schedule an appointment with me to discuss the opportunity. I require **at least 40 days** before a recommendation is due, to write and submit a letter.

Late policy

Assignments are due when the syllabus says they are due, and when Canvas 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.