THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN
SPRING 2018

AEAH 4940.01
Understanding Art Museums:
Art Institutions and Exhibition Spaces
F 11-1:50 P.M.
Room Wh 310

INSTRUCTOR: DR. LAUREN CROSS
OFFICE: ART 224E
OFFICE HOURS: Tu/Th 11-12:30 p.m. and by appointment
EMAIL: PLEASE EMAIL THROUGH BLACKBOARD
(Note: Correspondence sent via Blackboard Messages instead of the course email tool will not be answered)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course revolves around the study of art museums and cultural institutions: their people, their purpose, and their place in society.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:
Additional assigned articles/chapters/essays posted on Blackboard (Bb).

COURSE CONTENT:
ART 4940 Understanding Art Museums will explore the mission, organization, and structure of both art museums and cultural art institutions. In addition to the organizations themselves, we will investigate the different roles and functions of people who work in art institutions. Students will also learn the history of art museums as well as philosophical, ethical, and professional discourses that inform them.

As a requirement for the course, students will regularly engage in field opportunities outside of the classroom that will equip students to better understand art institutions within the local art scene. Students taking this class should be prepared to immerse within the local Denton and DFW art scene over the course of the semester. Select Fridays throughout the semester will be set aside for fieldwork in local museums, galleries, cultural centers, exhibitions, lectures, and artist talks in Denton, Dallas, and Fort Worth to deepen the understanding of art in practical ways. It will be the student’s responsibility to arrange transportation during fieldwork days; a fieldwork schedule is included on the syllabus to provide ample time for students to make arrangements. Students will have opportunities to post travel options such as carpooling and group travel through public transportation through a discussion forum on Blackboard (Bb).

COURSE OBJECTIVES LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students will:
1. investigate the nature of art museums, galleries, and non profit arts spaces through readings, discussion, and visits to area art museums.
2. discover the role of the labor industry in art museum/cultural work through guest lectures with industry professionals and discussions of the museum field.
3. examine the philosophical, historical, and ethical dilemmas of arts institutions through written analysis and reflection.
4. apply knowledge of course concepts, terms, and themes by documenting and reflecting on visiting experiences in North Texas art museums, galleries, and non-profit artspaces.
5. present research results and materials in both written and oral forms.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

**Attendance/Class Preparation:** Students should come to class prepared to engage in class discussion by: 1) Reading all assigned course readings before class 2) Engaging in respectful and insightful with lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, and all course activities 3) participating in all required out-of-class activities.

**In-Class Discussion:** Discussion-based learning will be the primary mode of teaching in this class, which will be prompted by brief presentations/lectures on assigned course readings and topics. Your participation in class discussion is required and vital to your success in the course. Students should come to class prepared to discuss course readings in order to receive credit for class participation.

**Active Learning/Collaborative Learning Activities:** As a extension of our class discussions, students will also engage in active and collaborative learning activities in class in order to engage course topics in innovative ways.

**Fieldwork Requirement:**
Starting in Week 2, select Fridays will be set aside for student field research and reflection within the local arts community in Denton, Dallas, and Fort Worth. Fieldwork trips will be located at various museums, art galleries, and cultural centers throughout the DFW area (See the syllabus schedule for dates of scheduled trips). Students will be required to keep an electronic Photo-voice journal to document and reflect on their field experiences, which will be hosted on Blackboard (Bb). Students will be assigned a selection of reflection questions to complete for each fieldwork trip in their Photo-Voice Journal. See the **STUDENT EVALUATION** section of the syllabus for more information about the Photo-voice Journal assignment.

Fieldwork trips are required. Students who are not able to travel with the rest of the class will need to make arrangements to visit the assigned exhibitions and artspaces independently and turn in Photo-voice Journal assignments by the class deadline. Note: Students will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to art sites within the region. A discussion board forum will be dedicated to coordinating public transportation (i.e., DART, DCTA) and/or carpooling, which is recommended.

**STUDENT EVALUATION (OR GRADING):**
The grading system for the course is the following:
Participation (In-Class Activities) (10 per class session x 30)......60
Photo-voice Research Project…………………………..400
Total Possible Points 740

**BLACKBOARD: COMMUNICATION, READINGS AND ONLINE MATERIALS:**
This course will use Blackboard to distribute supplemental course materials, to collaborate online, to turn in course assignments and quizzes, and to access grades. Students should use the email tool in Blackboard to get in contact with the instructor. Under no circumstances are students allowed to send mass emails to the rest of the class. Direct all questions for the class to the instructor. You can access Blackboard at [http://learn.unt.edu](http://learn.unt.edu) using your university login and password. You can find support using Blackboard at the UNT Helpdesk on the web ([http://helpdesk.unt.edu](http://helpdesk.unt.edu)) by email ([helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)) or by phone (940) 565-2324.
PARTICIPATION (IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES) (up to 10 points per class session x 14 sessions): An important component of the class will be active and collaborative learning exercises and discussion. Your attendance and participation in class exercises and discussions is required. Exercises allow opportunities for impromptu reflections on readings and engagement with classmates. Participation points are earned not only through attendance but completing and participating in in-class assignments.

PHOTO-VOICE RESEARCH JOURNAL (520 points):
Photo-voice is a critical method of research that allows the researcher or research participant to “show and tell” their interpretations and experiences. Over the course of the semester students will reflect on their interpretations of course readings, self-guided readings, museum visits, and overall course experiences, which will be housed in an electronic photo-voice journal on Blackboard (Bb). Photo-voice journal entries are not audio-based (despite the name), but are reflections that combine photographs that reflect your experiences. Students will write written reflections that describe your reflections. Each photo-voice journal should include:

1. Course reading reflections (5), which are entries that allow students to reflect on their interpretations of assigned course readings. Photographs for course reading reflection entries can be as literal or reflective as needed. The written narrative should describe the nature of your visual interpretations. Course reading entries must include:
   a. 3 photographs documenting your art experience (5 points)
   b. Summary of the reading (5 points)
   c. Interpretation and/or evaluation of the reading (5 points).
   d. Use correct MLA format (i.e., in-text parenthetical citations and Works Cited to support your claims) (5 points).

   Each entry is worth up to 20 points each

2. Self-assigned reading reflections (2), which are entries that allow students to reflect on their interpretations of self-assigned readings about art museums and/or galleries. Self-assigned readings can be from: books, peer reviewed articles, or articles from reputable news sources. Self-assigned reading reflections must include:
   a. 3 photographs documenting your art experience (5 points)
   b. Summary of the reading (5 points)
   c. Interpretation and/or evaluation of the reading (5 points).
   d. Use correct MLA format (i.e., in-text parenthetical citations and Works Cited to support your claims) (5 points).

   Each entry is worth up to 20 points each

3. Museum visit reflections (5), which are entries that allow students to reflect on their interpretations of museum visits. As a part of the fieldwork requirement for the course, students are required to attend all scheduled museum visits; however, students can select five museum/gallery (visits) to reflect on. A schedule of all museum visits will be posted on Blackboard (Bb). Also, If students post one (1) additional independently initiated art experiences, they can be counted as extra credit points (a total of 40 extra credit points). Extra credit opportunities can include art lectures, talks, art-making workshops, and art activities. Photo-voice journal entries can only be seen by the instructor and are an opportunity for students to practice their art analysis and interpretation skills. Journal entries from museum visits must include:
   1. 3 photographs documenting your art experience (4 points)
   2. Summary of your art experience (4 points)
   3. Interpretation and/or evaluation of the institution you visited (4 points)
   4. At least two direct quotes from our assigned readings that inform your interpretation (4 points).
   5. Use correct MLA format (i.e., in-text parenthetical citations and Works Cited to support your claims) (4 points).

   Each entry is worth up to 20 points each
4. Concluding reflection presentation:

Using the Photo-voice method, students will use five photographs that reflect concluding thoughts regarding the course. Images can be a combination of images from previous entries but should be documentary in nature; however, images may be expressive and do not need to explicitly represent concrete concepts but may be abstract interpretations. Next, students will take their photographs and produce a 5-10 minute visual presentation (no more than 1-2 minutes per slide/image) summarizing their reflections on their chosen topic. Students will have a work week during Week 5 to prepare their Photo-voice Presentations. Class presentations should include the following slides & information:

**Slides**

1. Slide 1: Title page, including title of presentation and student name (2 points).
2. Slide 2: Thesis statement (2 points)
3. Slides 3-7: Five (5) photographs (you may not use images from the internet) that reflect your interpretation of your experience in the course (10 points).
4. Slide 8: Conclusion, summarizing overarching reflections (2 points).

**Information**

5. Slide Notes: Each slide should include notes (at least 1-2 sentences) that summarize your presentation talking points and reflections (2 points).
6. MLA: Use correct MLA format in your presentation & slide notes (i.e., in-text parenthetical citations and Works Cited slide to support your claims) (2 points).

**Concluding Reflection Presentation is worth up to 20 points**

**EXTRA CREDIT (up to 20 points):**

As mentioned above, attending and documenting additional art experiences in your Photovoice Journal beyond the required class visits can be counted as extra credit up to 20 points. Submit your extra credit entries by Friday, May 4th by 11:59 p.m. to receive extra credit points.

**LOCAL ART MUSEUMS:**
The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (www.themodern.org)
Amon Carter Museum of American Art (www.cartermuseum.org)
Kimbell Art Museum (www.kimbellart.org)
Dallas Museum of Art (www.dma.org)
Dallas Contemporary (www.dallascontemporary.org)
The Nasher Sculpture Center (www.nashersculpturecenter.org)
The Crow Collection of Asian Art (crowcollection.org)

**GALLERIES & ART DEALER ASSOCIATIONS:**
Fort Worth Art Dealers Association (www.fwada.com)
Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas (www.caddallas.net)
Dallas Art Dealers Association (www.dallasartdealers.org)

**ALTERNATIVE & NON-PROFIT EXHIBITION SPACES/ORGANIZATIONS:**
Fort Worth Community Arts Center (www.fwcac.com)
The MAC (the-mac.org)
SYLLABUS POLICY 06.049: Please go to the following link for a copy of the policy: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049

ATTENDANCE POLICY: A class attendance sheet will be passed around before the end of every class session and museum visit. Students are only allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences, before it starts negatively impacting your grade. Students will be deducted 10 grade points for each additional unexcused class session. Students who have been six or more unexcused absences will be automatically dropped from the course. Excused absences, such as as a result of medical emergencies must be documented and approved by the Dean of Students office and then submitted in writing to the instructor no more than 48 hours after the absence.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND CONSEQUENCES: According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, 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. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation].

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT: 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.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION—EAGLE CONNECT: Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

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.

Students who are pregnant or will become pregnant during the course of the semester are advised to check with their doctor immediately to determine if any additional risks are reason to postpone this course until a later semester. Upon request, your professor will provide a list of chemicals and safety issues for your doctor to review. Material Safety Data Sheets are available on all chemicals. It will be up to you and your doctor to determine what course of action to take.

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 Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT, & ASSAULT
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

CENTER FOR STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information.
Weekly Class Schedule

**Week 1 (January 19): What is a museum?**
**Introductions**
What is a museum?

**Week 2 (January 26): Museum Visit**
Kimbell Art Museum

**Week 3 (February 2): The Building**
**Assigned Readings:** Schwarzer, “The Building”

**Week 4 (February 9): Museum Visit**
The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

**Week 5 (February 16): Class Work Day**
*Work Day No Class*

**Week 6 (February 23): The Collection**
**Assigned Readings:** Schwarzer, “The Collection”
*Texas Fashion Collection*
**Assigned Readings:** Blackboard Reading (Bb)
**Due:** In-Class Exercises/Participation

**Week 7 (March 2): Museum Visit**
Amon Carter Museum of Art

**Week 8 (March 9): Class Work Day**
*Work Day No Class*

**Week 9 (March 16): Spring Break**
No Class

**Week 10 (March 23): When private collections becomes public**
*The Rachofsky Warehouse*

**Week 11 (March 30): The Exhibition**
**Assigned Readings:** Schwarzer, “The Exhibition”
**Due:** In-Class Exercises/Participation

**Week 12 (April 6): Museum Visit**
Nasher, Crow, and DMA
Week 13 (April 13): Exhibitions
Assigned Readings: Blackboard Readings (Bb)

Week 14 (April 20): People & Money
Assigned Readings: Schwarzer, “People & Money”

Week 15 (April 27): Museum Visit
The Meadows Museum of Art

Week 16 (May 4): Presentations
Due: Concluding Presentations

Note: Please note that the above schedule is tentative; I retain the right to change the syllabus with or without notice.
STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I (print) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

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