

ARTH 4818 Topics in Latin American Art: Conceptual Art Section 002

FALL 2025

Location: ART 280

Frequency: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 - 3:20PM

Instructor Information

Dr. Salazar

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Email: monica.salazar@unt.edu and via canvas email

Office Location: ART 208

Office Hour: Thursday 5:00pm & by appointment

Course Description

This course explores the history of conceptual art from Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain* (1917) to the present with a special focus on Latin America. It focuses on the development and interpretation of conceptualism's most relevant artworks and ideas as well their historical, social and cultural contexts.

Course Content

Once described as the *lingua franca* or common language of contemporary art, Conceptual art continues to challenge power structures of the art world, as well as social, political, and economic hierarchies. Focusing on the Latin American context, this course studies the history of Conceptual art from its origins in Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain* to contemporary global expressions of conceptualism. Together, we will explore the most important discourses and debates surrounding Conceptual art, including commodification of art; art and language; and dematerialization.

Required Textbook

Godfrey, Tony. *Conceptual Art*. Phaidon

Additional assigned texts will be posted on Canvas.

Recommended Reading

1. Alexander Alberro and Blake Stimson. *Conceptual Art: A Critical Anthology*.

2. Foster et al. *Art since 1900:1945 to the present*. Vol 2. 2nd edition.
3. Kristine Stiles and Peter Selz. *Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings*.
4. Sylvan Barnett, *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*
5. Sayre, Henry. *Writing About Art*

Technology requirements

This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need:

- Internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System
- Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)
- Digital camera
- Microsoft Office Suite, including Word
- Adobe Acrobat reader

Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

Course Structure

This class meets two times a week during the semester.

Classes will involve PowerPoint lectures, as well as in-class discussions and small-group activities. All readings are to be done prior to class, on the day assigned. Students are expected to actively and respectfully participate in all class discussions and group exercises.

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation so we will work as a class to collaborate in ways that encourage inclusivity.

Canvas

We will be using Canvas in this course. In order for you to access the course materials, announcements, grades, etc., you need to read this syllabus carefully and complete the mandatory syllabus quiz. Students are required to access Canvas regularly. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any announcements, assignments, or changes posted on Canvas. Technical difficulties will not be an acceptable excuse for failing to turn in assignments on time, completing the readings, or responding to a message.

Note: Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college's practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Identify salient artworks and ideas that are key in the history of conceptual art.
2. Interpret and apply concepts and terms that are crucial to conceptual art.
3. Analyze the ways in which conceptual art informs the art of today.
4. Conduct research on conceptual artists and communicate the outcomes of such research to the group.
5. Analyze texts closely.

How to Succeed in this Course

Your success in this course depends on your attendance and active participation.

You may contact Dr. Salazar via canvas messages for questions regarding class content, exams, assignments, etc. Please note that her contact information and office hours are listed at the beginning of this syllabus and on canvas (course homepage).

Please note that every communication in this course must comply with the code of conduct dictated by UNT. **Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.**

Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Come visit me! I encourage you to connect with me for support.

Late and Make-up Assignments:

Late work will NOT be accepted unless you have a documented, excused absence.

Students are responsible for notifying the instructor of their absence and checking for any missed work.

Students must have a documented, excused absence in order to make up assignments.

If a student knows they will miss a test due to a documented excused absence they must contact TA and instructor BEFORE the test.

If a student misses a test due to a documented family emergency, they must contact TA and instructor and within a week after the exam took place.

Electronic Devices

For the duration of this class, please refrain from using **ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICES**—including earphones, earplugs, etc. In case you are forced to use a laptop or a recording device due to a disability, please bring to me your accommodation letter from the ODA office during the first week of class and I will be happy to make an exception for you. **Cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices must be silenced and put away** before the start of class. Please do not get up and leave during class except when absolutely necessary, such as an emergency need to use the facilities. There is no need to ask permission to leave. If you need to frequently stand up, please try to sit near the end of the rows, close to the walls so that you do not distract the class. If you are

going to an extraordinary personal situation that requires you to keep your telephone active, please use silence mode. In case you really, urgently NEED to take a call, please leave the classroom discretely and respectfully. If a student does not comply to these requests, and his/her actions become disruptive to the class, I will ask him/her to leave. In case a student refuses to leave, a disciplinary report will be filed with the Dean of Students.

Attendance Policy

Student attendance and participation in class is not only required, but also essential to your success in this course. Attendance and timely arrival are not only required, but also essential to your success in this course. I cannot emphasize this enough. There might be questions in the exams and in the quizzes that come from class discussions and lectures; therefore, if you regularly miss class, it is likely that you will not earn a satisfactory grade. It is also very important that you come to class prepared. This means completing the assigned readings, making notes, and coming to class ready to share questions and observations.

In-class activities will also count as attendance. That is, if you miss an in-class activity that will count as an absence. Also, if a student attends class but his/her attention is on their smart phone, laptop, or any other electronic device, they will be counted as absent.

Tardiness: Those students who arrive no later than 15 minutes after the class started must make sure they have been counted for the attendance of that particular class. Students who arrive within 15 minutes after the class started will be counted as being late. Students who arrive after the first 15 minutes of class will be considered absent. Three late attendances constitute an absence.

Two unexcused absences will be allowed. Thereafter, each unexcused absence will result in the lowering your grade by five points.

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 and the professor 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.

Note: Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class. The class calendar is subject to change accordingly. For more information about this subject, refer to [Campus Closures Policy \(https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006\)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006).

ADA accommodation:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For

additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Academic success resources

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

This class will follow the university's expectations of student conduct, found at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>. Students are expected to speak respectfully to the instructor, TAs and their peers.

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding ([Code of Student Conduct](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012)) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>).

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 Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Course Requirements

The following assignments and percentages will constitute your final grade for the semester:

Participation-----	20%
Group Presentation-----	20%
Canvas Chapter Quizzes-----	20%
Film Quiz -----	5%
TFC Visit Response -----	5%
Conceptual Piece Project-----	30%

Total: 100%

1. **Participation (20%):** Student participation in class discussion is not only required, but also essential to your success in this course. It is important that students come to class prepared, having completed the assigned readings and canvas chapter quizzes.

2. **Group Presentation (20%):** Throughout the course, groups of 3 to 4 students will be responsible for conducting research on an assigned artist and presenting the results of their research to the rest of the class. More information on the Artist presentations can be found on Canvas. These small groups must investigate biographical information about the artist, information about the artist's use of materials, process(es), as well as his/her preferred/recurrent themes. Presentations should be about 15 – 20 minutes and should explore the ways in which their artist's work relates (or does not relate) to conceptual art. Each group will also lead a class discussion drawing connections between their artist and the concepts learned in class or through the readings. Each group member must participate in both the research and presentation of this project. The first day of class, the presentation date for each group will be assigned. Dates are not exchangeable. If a student misses his/her group presentation, there will be NO make up opportunities for this assignment.

****Extra points will be awarded to those students who present without reading their material.****

3. **Canvas Chapter Quizzes (20%)** Throughout the semester, students are required to complete 10 reading comprehension quizzes on the textbook chapters. These quizzes are available on Canvas and are worth 2 points each. Students must complete each quiz according to the scheduled readings. Dates for each quiz can be found in the calendar located at the end of this syllabus.

4. **TFC Visit Response (5%)** Students are required to submit a visit response in this class. For this response, students must write a short paper (1-2 pages). More information about this Response can be found on Canvas.

5. **Film Quiz (5%):** Students are required to complete a film quiz. This short in-class quiz will be based on the film we will watch in class as well as its relationship to the readings and lectures. This Film Quiz constitutes 5% of the final grade and will be graded numerically, ranging from 0 to 5.

Students cannot make up missed quizzes.

5. **Conceptual Piece Project (30%):** For the final assignment, students must create a conceptual artwork using their preferred medium. More information about this project can be found on Canvas.

Assessing Your Work Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. Students who use other people's work without citations will be violating UNT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of [guidelines for your academic success](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email me or come discuss this with me during my office hours.

Grades:

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

Meaning of Grades:

A = Exemplary work: reads all required texts, works above and beyond in all areas, engaged in class, and asked pertinent questions; shows a mastery of the material beyond class expectations.

B = Good work: participates and is prepared for each class session, understands the concepts and ideas within the class but perhaps needs clarity on certain points.

C = Average work (this is the starting point for all assignments): knows material based on general knowledge, average work, gave enough effort to pass.

D = Passing, but Below Average Work: shows some understanding of material, but misunderstanding of other aspects of the content, missing assignments and tests, did not follow instructions, did not ask questions until assignment was due, missed multiple classes.

F = Poor work: subpar effort, possibly did not attend or access class for extended periods of time for various reasons, shows little understanding of the course material.

All grades will be posted on Canvas.

IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THEIR GRADES AS THEY APPEAR ON CANVAS TO VERIFY THEY ARE RECORDED CORRECTLY.

Please notify Dr. Salazar immediately if you find errors or missing grades.

No adjustments will be made without the original work.

***The use of generative AI programs including, but not limited to Chat GPT by students on graded assignments is prohibited. According to the Student Academic Integrity Policy (UNT Policy 6.003), any form of "unauthorized assistance" such as the use of artificial intelligence is "cheating."

Course Calendar

WEEK 1	Aug 19	Introduction and Syllabus
	Aug 21	Read: "Introduction: What is Conceptual Art?," Godfrey.
WEEK 2	Aug 26	Read: 1. "Anti-Art Gestures in Early Modernism," Godfrey.
	Aug 28	Mandatory Syllabus Quiz Due.
WEEK 3	Sep 2	Read: 2. "The Postwar Period," Godfrey. <u>Canvas Chapter 2 Quiz due by 2:00 pm</u>
	Sep 4	Read: "Paragraphs in Conceptual Art," Sol Lewitt (Canvas) <u>Artist Presentation- Group 1: Fluxus</u>
WEEK 4	Sep 9	Read: 3. "False, Radical and Obdurate," Godfrey <u>Canvas Chapter 3 Quiz due by 2:00 pm</u>
	Sep 11	<u>Artist Presentation- Group 2: Marcel Broodthaers</u>
WEEK 5	Sep 16	Read: 4. "The Dematerialized Object, Almost," Godfrey <u>Canvas Chapter 4 Quiz due by 2:00 pm</u> Conceptual Piece Project Part 1 Due.
	Sep 18	Read: "The Dematerialization of Art," Lippard & Chandler (Canvas) <u>Artist Presentation- Group 3: John Cage</u>
WEEK 6	Sep 23	Read: "Rematerialization," Ramirez (Canvas) "Concerning the Article 'The Dematerialization of Art'," Atkinson (Canvas) <u>Artist Presentation- Group 4: Helio Oiticica</u>

	Sep 25	Read: 5. "Who Were the Brain Police?," Godfrey Canvas Chapter 5 Quiz due by 2:00 pm
WEEK 7	Sep 30	Read: 6. "The Crisis of Authority," Godfrey Canvas Chapter 6 Quiz due by 2:00 pm
	Oct 2	Read: "Conceptual Art 1962-1969: From the Aesthetic of Administration to the Critique of Institutions," Buchloh (Canvas) Artist Presentation- Group 5: Hans Haacke
WEEK 8	Oct 7	Visit to the Texas Fashion Collection
	Oct 9	Read: 7. "The End?," Godfrey Canvas Chapter 7 Quiz due by 2:00 pm Artist Presentation- Group 6: Cildo Meireles
WEEK 9	Oct 14	Read: 8. "Where Were They?," Godfrey Canvas Chapter 8 Quiz due by 2:00 pm TFC Visit Response due (upload to Canvas)
	Oct 16	Artist Presentation- Group 7: Monica Mayer
WEEK 10	Oct 21	Read: 9. "Looking at Others," Godfrey Canvas Chapter 9 Quiz due by 2:00 pm
	Oct 23	Artist Presentation- Group 8: Sherrie Levine
WEEK 11	Oct 28	Read: 10. What is Your Name," Godfrey Canvas Chapter 10 Quiz due by 2:00 pm Conceptual Piece Project Part 2 Due.
	Oct 30	"Introduction," Editors of <i>Art-Language</i> (Canvas) Artist Presentation- Group 9 Luis Camnitzer

WEEK 12	Nov 4	Read: 11. "Who Are the Style Police?," Godfrey <u>Canvas Chapter 11 Quiz due by 2:00 pm</u>
	Nov 6	Independent Study Day – No Class!
WEEK 13	Nov 11	Read: "Blueprint Circuits: Conceptual Art and Politics in Latin America," Ramirez (Canvas) "Tucumán Burns," Gramuglio & Rosa (Canvas)
	Nov 13	Read: "Introduction: Neoconceptualism's Various Labels," Brandt (Canvas) <u>Artist Presentation: Group 10 Lotty Rosenfeld</u>
WEEK 14	Nov 18	In-Class Film: <i>Herb and Dorothy</i>
	Nov 20	In-Class Film: <i>Herb and Dorothy</i> <u>Film Quiz</u>
WEEK 15	Nov 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASSES
	Nov 27	
WEEK 16	Dec 2	<u>Conceptual Piece Project Part 3 & 4 Due.</u> – CONCEPTUAL ART PIECE BRIEF PRESENTATIONS & PAPER DUE
	Dec 4	<u>Conceptual Piece Project Part 3 & 4 Due.</u> – CONCEPTUAL ART PIECE BRIEF PRESENTATIONS & PAPER DUE