AEGH 4813: Postmodernism and the Visual Arts 1945-Present
Dr. Monica Salazar

OFFICE NUMBER: ART 208
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 5:00 – 6:00 and by appointment
E-mail: Monica.Salazar@unt.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Explores the relationship of postmodernism in the visual arts, including the development, interpretation, and use of postmodern works, as well as historical, social and cultural conditions of “postmodernity” globally, ca. 1945 to the present.
Prerequisite(s): ART 1200 or ART 1301; ART 2350, and ART 2360 or consent of instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:
Sandler, Irving. Art of the Postmodern Era: From the Late 1960s to the Early 1990s. 1st ed. New York: Icon Editions
Additional assigned texts will be posted on Canvas.

RECOMMENDED READING:
Docherty, Thomas, ed. Postmodernism: A Reader.
Wheale, Nigel, ed. The Postmodern Arts: An Introductory Reader.
Kristine Stiles and Peter Selz. Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists’ Writings.

COURSE CONTENT:
This class explores the origins, development, and impact of postmodernism from around 1945 to the present. Although this course focuses on the visual arts, together, we will investigate postmodernism in its socioeconomic, historical, cultural, and philosophical contexts. With topics spanning from Abstract Expressionism to new media art, this class will discuss salient global developments in the arts, architecture, and philosophy of postmodernism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:
1. Identify historical movements, theories, and salient works of art that are key in the history of postmodernism.
2. Interpret and apply concepts and terms that are crucial to postmodernism.
3. Analyze the ways in which postmodernism thought informs the art of today.
4. Conduct research on postmodern artists, and communicate the outcomes of such research to the group.
5. Analyze texts closely.

COURSE STRUCTURE: This class meets twice a week during the semester.
All readings are to be done prior to class, on the day assigned. Students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions and group exercises.
Note: some students may find the information and images disturbing due to their explicit violent, sexual and political subject. By signing the agreement at the end of this syllabus, you are acknowledging your awareness of these themes and committing to fully participate in class.

**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.

**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.

**Student Behavior**
This class will follow the university’s expectations of student conduct, found at [https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012). Students are expected to speak respectfully to the instructor, TAs and their peers. 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.

**STUDENT EVALUATION (OR GRADING):** The following assignments and percentages will constitute your final grade for the semester:

- Participation------------------------------- 10%
- Artist Presentation----------------------- 20%
- Exam 1---------------------------------- 20%
- Exam 2---------------------------------- 20%
- Final Group Project:
  - Proposal----------------------------- 5%
  - Presentation------------------------ 10%
  - Paper------------------------------- 15%
  
  **Total: 100%**

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.

1. **Participation** (10%): Student participation in class discussion is not only required, but also essential to your success in this course.

2. **Artist Presentation** (20%): Throughout the semester, groups of three students will be responsible for conducting research on an assigned artist, and presenting the results of their research to the rest of the class. 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 long and should explore the ways in which the artist’s work relates (or does not relate) to Postmodernism. At the end of the presentation, the group will ask insightful questions to the class. Such questions will help the group lead a class discussion on the artist’s relationship to Postmodernism and to the concepts learned in class or through the readings. Within the first weeks of class, the date in which each group will present their work 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. **Exams 1 & 2** (40%, 20% each) There will be two non-cumulative exams throughout the semester. They are designed so you can demonstrate your knowledge and your understanding of the material we have covered in class, including assigned readings and class lectures. The format will consist of slide-identifications, true or false statements, short essay, and/or multiple-choice questions. Each exam will be worth 20% of your grade and will be graded numerically, ranging from 0 to 20. Once the exam starts taking place, leaving the classroom is NOT permitted. If a student has to leave, he/she must turn in the exam before exiting the classroom. You must not communicate with your fellow students during the exam. If the professor sees a student communicating with another student or looking at another student’s exam, their own exam will be taken away from them and they will receive a zero. Exams start with the Slide Identification portion. If a student is late he/she may start the exam at that point, but the slide identification portion will not be repeated for those students who are late. That is, if a student misses either a part or the entirety of the Slide identification section, he/she will lose those points.

4. **Final Group Project:** For the final project, groups will be formed and each group will choose an aspect/topic related to postmodernism. The group will develop a board game based on that topic and will use artworks, quotes, philosophers, and/or ideas to support it. The objective is that by interacting with the game, its users will gain an understanding of such topic, and of postmodernism itself.

The project consists of 3 parts:

**Proposal/Outline** (5%)
Halfway through the semester, each group is required to submit a proposal and an outline of their Final Group Project. This document should consist of a tentative title; a statement where they explain their intent and goals for the game; an outline of its parts and overall plan for its instructions.

This proposal must include an annotated bibliography that includes at least 7 entries.
Each group is required to turn in one final game and an instruction manual. The game must be interactive and must incorporate the elements of the proposal as well as research on the postmodern topic it references. The instruction manual must begin by establish its learning objectives and provide the reader with an explanation of its theme and its relationship to Postmodernism. It should also explain the rules and instructions of how users should interact with it. It must be a well written cohesive text, rather than a compilation of the separate writings of each individual group member. Only one Instruction manual per group must be uploaded through the Turnitin link in Canvas. It must be typed, using Times New Roman font, size 12, and should be double-spaced with 1 to 1.25 inch margins. Students should use the Chicago Manual of Style format, including appropriate citations in the form of footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography when applicable. An electronic copy of this assignment must be uploaded through the Turnitin link in Canvas on the assigned date. Late Manuals will not be accepted.

The last 2 sessions of class will be devoted to Final Project Presentations. These presentations should be around 10 minutes long and must be supported by images. The goal of this presentation is that we all learn about each other and we reflect upon the different theories we learned in class. All group members must participate in this presentation.

Please note that in order for a group to get credit for the Final Group Project, all three parts must have been completed in a timely manner. Therefore, if a group turns in one or two parts but fails to submit either the Proposal/Outline, the Instruction Manual, or fails to Present their project to the group, they will get a “zero”.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Those students who arrive late must make sure they have been counted for the attendance of that particular class. Two unexcused absences (it is an hour and a half class) will be allowed. Thereafter, each unexcused absence will result in the lowering your grade by five points.

ADA Accommodation Statement: In accordance with university policies and state and federal regulations, the university is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. To this end, all academic units are willing to make reasonable and appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies in order to facilitate equality of educational access for persons with disabilities. See UNT Policy 04.015.

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 you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You 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 Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://disability.unt.edu. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress:
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.
If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

**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.

**Building Emergency Procedures:**
In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.

**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. Cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to University authorities. See UNT Policy 06.003.

**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 http://deanofstudents.unt.edu.

*Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus if and when necessary with or without notice.*
# Course Outline:

## WEEK 1. INTRODUCTION

| January 13 | Introduction and Syllabus |
| January 15 | Read: Hassan, “Toward a Concept of Postmodernism” (Canvas) |

## WEEK 2. THE HEGEMONY OF MODERNISM

| January 20 | *MLK Day - NO CLASS* |
| January 22 | Read: Sandler, “Introduction”  
Read: Sandler, “Postminimalism”  
Artist Presentations will be assigned. |

## WEEK 3. COLD WAR / FEMINISM

| January 27 | Read: Sandler, “The Impact of 1968 on European Art” |
| January 29 | Read: Sandler, “First Generation Feminism”  
Read: Nochlin, “Why have there been no great women artists?” (Canvas)  
*Presentation – Group 1. Carolee Schneemann* |

## WEEK 4. PAINTING IS NOT DEAD

| February 3 | Read: Sandler, “Pattern and Decoration Painting”  
Read: Sandler, “New Image Painting” |
| February 5 | Read: Sandler, “The Italian Transavantguardia and German Neoexpressionism”  
Read: Sandler, “American Neoexpressionism”  
*Presentation – Group 2. Susan Rothenberg* |

## WEEK 5. POSTMODERNIST ART THEORY/ POSTMODERN FILM

| February 10 | Read: Sandler, “Postmodernist Art Theory”.  
*Presentation – Group 3. Sherrie Levine* |
| February 12 | Read: In-class Film: *Blade Runner* |

## WEEK 6. POSTMODERN FILM/ ARCHITECTURE

| February 17 | Read: In-class Film: *Blade Runner*  
Varun, “Blade Runner and the Postmodern: a Reconsideration.” (Canvas)  
*Presentation – Group 4. Quentin Tarantino* |
| February 19 | Read: Venturi, Scott and Brown, Learning from Las Vegas (fragment) (Canvas) |
### WEEK 7. ARCHITECTURE

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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Read: Frampton, “Toward a Critical Regionalism” (Canvas) Presentation – Group 5. Michael Graves</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td><em><strong>Tentative Fashion Collection visit. Split class into 2 groups. TFC (Welch Street Complex 1)</strong></em></td>
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### WEEK 8. THE 1970s

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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>Read: Sandler, “The Art World of the 1970s” Read: Lippard, “Sweeping Exchanges” (Canvas)</td>
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### WEEK 9. SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
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### WEEK 10. THE 1970s

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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td><em><strong>Willis Library Visit – Research Methods &amp; Annotated Bibliography Lecture. Class Meets @ Willis Library, Room 136 @ 2:00pm</strong></em></td>
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### WEEK 11. THE 1980s

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<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Read: Crimp “Pictures” (Canvas) Presentation – Group 7. Cindy Sherman Final Group Project Proposal Due (Includes Annotated Bibliography)</td>
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### WEEK 12. THE OTHER

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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Read: Sandler, “The ‘Other’: From Marginal into Mainstream” Read: Richard, “Postmodernism and Periphery” (Canvas)</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Read: Kaup, “Neobaroque: Latin America’s Alternative Modernity” (Canvas) Presentation – Group 9. Julio Galán</td>
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### WEEK 13. COMMODIFICATION OF ART

| April 6 | Read: Sandler, “The Consumer Society and Deconstruction Art” |
| April 8 | Read: Sandler, “Commodity Art, Neogeo, and the East Village Art Scene”  
*Presentation – Group 10. Eric Fischl* |

### WEEK 14. THE 1990s

| April 13 | Read: Sandler, “Into the 1990s” |
| April 15 | Read: Jardine, “Modern Medicis: Art Patronge in the Twentieth Century Britain”  
*(Canvas)*  
*Presentation – Group 11. Tracey Emin* |

### WEEK 15. FINAL PROJECT- GROUP PRESENTATIONS

| April 20 | **Group Presentations** |
| April 22 | **Group Presentations**  
**FINAL PAPER DUE** |

### WEEK 16. REVIEW

| April 27 | In-Class Film: *Shadowman: A New York Artist and His Relationship with the "Art World"* |
| April 29 | **Independent Study Day – NO CLASS** |

**EXAM II: Monday, May 4th, 1:30 p.m.**