ARTH 4814/ Theories of Contemporary Art
Section: 002
FALL 2022
Classroom: ART 280
Meeting time: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30PM-1:50PM

Instructor Contact
Name: Dr. Mónica Salazar
Pronouns: her/hers
Office Location: ART 208
Office Hours: Monday 5:00-6:00pm & by appointment
E-mail: Monica.Salazar@unt.edu or via canvas email
Email will be answered within 24 hours on weekdays.

You should receive feedback on written assignments/presentations within 1 week after the due date. If I am unable to return your feedback within that time period, I will let the class know when they can expect to receive it.
Effective and respectful communication is crucial for student success in this class. For tips and resources on how to effectively communicate online, please visit this link: Online Communication Tips

Welcome to UNT!
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. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Selected theoretical and critical issues in recent art.
Prerequisite(s): ART 2350 and ART 2360, and AEAH 2370; or consent of instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
There are no required Textbooks for this course.
All texts are available via course reserves in either electronic or physical version:
https://iii.library.unt.edu/search/r?SEARCH=arth+4814
The password is: Contemporary

RECOMMENDED READING
COURSE CONTENT
This class explores different currents of thought within contemporary art. Together, we will investigate the different theoretical frameworks and critical issues that revolve around contemporary art. We will also study the sociopolitical, historical, and economic circumstances in which important contemporary theories emerge. In this class, students will draw connections between contemporary art theory and local works of art. With topics spanning from the dematerialization of art to New Media, this class will discuss salient global developments in the arts, architecture, and philosophy of the contemporary art world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:
1. Identify different contemporary art theories, as well as their contexts, and works of art that reflect them.
2. Interpret and apply concepts and terms that are crucial to theory in contemporary art.
3. Analyze the ways in which theory informs the art of today.
4. Conduct research on works of art, 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. Since this is a “Theory” class, it is crucial that you read the assigned texts diligently. Although in many instances theoretical texts are challenging, students must commit to read them closely in a timely manner. Close reading a text means to exercise critical thinking and analyze the reading in order to understand what the main and secondary ideas are. That is, to do a thoughtful analysis of the text in order to achieve a deep understanding of its meaning. Students must come to class with notes and questions to share with the class.
We will be using Canvas in this course. In order for you to access the course materials, you need to read the 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.”

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Engagement Guidelines (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.
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. 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.

Course Requirements

PARTICIPATION (20%):
Student participation in class discussion is not only required, but also essential to your success in this course. Students are required to actively participate in class activities and discussions. If a student misses a class, he/she/they will not be able to make up any in-class activities that took place that day. That is, there will be NO make up opportunities for In-Class Activities/Participation.
In-class activities and other requirements of this course will require students to work in groups. Students will be divided into groups and work closely with one single group throughout the semester. Assigned group numbers and members are available on Canvas.
GROUP PRESENTATION (20%).
The texts we will be reading are quite interesting and challenging. They often leave us with all sorts of questions. Throughout the semester, 9 groups of 4 – 5 students will be responsible for sharing with the group a set of questions sparked by the assigned reading. Questions must be insightful and reflect a thorough reading of the text. Each question should aim to help the class have a deeper understanding of the texts and the topics being discussed, and therefore, they should lead the class into a deep and engaging discussion. Students are also required to share with the group a work or of art (not mentioned in the text) that illustrates (or opposes) the theory/idea presented by the text. Students must explain their reasoning behind choosing that specific example. You can use your Journal entry for that specific reading as a base for your presentation. The format of the presentation is open, you may use whatever medium/technology better helps explain your ideas. However, since you will be talking about works of art, it will be wise that you show images.

For dates of group presentations please see the calendar at the end of this syllabus. Dates are not exchangeable. If a student misses his/her/they presentation, there will be NO make up opportunities for this assignment.

JOURNAL (30%):
For this class, students will keep a journal. Although Canvas does not have a specific “Journal” section, we will do it through the Discussion Board. Each student will have their own “group” where he/she/they will enter his/her/their journal entry, so that all of that student’s entries will be grouped together.

Entries are due before most classes (please see the calendar at the end of this syllabus), and should record your thoughts, questions, and connections you make while reading the texts assigned for that day. Each entry must reflect a careful reading of the texts and show your critical thinking. Each entry should be between 200 and 300 words long, and should be clearly written. There are some instances, such as the independent research day and on Thanksgiving break when you do not need to submit an entry, although you can do it if you want. If you are not sure whether an entry is due, please see the Course Outline located at the end of this syllabus.

Most Journal entries are due before class, so students are able to participate in class discussions. Late entries (those posted after class starts) will not count as submitted. There is a total of 13 entries, and each one is worth 3 points. Students are required to complete 10 of those 13 entries. Extra points will be awarded to those students to complete the 13 journal entries ON TIME.

FINAL GROUP PROJECT (30%):
Each group will elaborate a virtual or imaginary museum exhibition that surveys one of the most significant Theories of Contemporary Art. On the second week of class each group will choose among a variety of themes I will present. Groups will choose the name of the exhibition, as well as an array of (8-10) works of art in which they will identify aspects/theories/concepts discussed in class, in order to explain how such works of art reflect certain theories of contemporary art. As part of the project, each group will submit a sketch showing the order and physical arrangement of the exhibit, subtitles or subdivisions within the exhibition (if any), as
well as the texts that will accompany the artworks. All group members are required to participate in the research, writing, and presentation of this project. The final Group Project consists of three parts:

1. **Proposal/Outline** (10%)  
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 curatorial statement where they explain their intent and goals for the exhibit; an outline of the sections within the show; and an annotated list of potential works of art.

2. **Final Paper** (10%)  
Each group is required to turn in one final written paper that must incorporate the elements of the proposal as well as research on the topics referenced through the Museum exhibit. This final paper must be a cohesive text, rather than a compilation of the separate writings of each individual group member. Only one paper per group must be uploaded through the Turnitin link in Canvas.  
The final paper should be 5 to 7 pages long and 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. One electronic copy of this assignment must be uploaded through the Turnitin link in Canvas on the assigned date. That is, only one group member will upload the paper, which must state clearly the names and last names (no nicknames please!) of the group members who authored it.  
**Late papers will not be accepted.**

3. **Presentation** (10%)  
The last week of class will be devoted to Final Project Presentations. These presentations should be 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/Olutline, the Written Papper, or fails to Present their project to the group, they will get a “zero”.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<td>Participation</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
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<td>Final Group Project</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
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Grading

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.

Course Policies

Attendance

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.

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Following the University’s recommendations as a way of helping with UNT’s contact tracing efforts, we will be using a seating Chart. Students must sit in their assigned place.

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.
UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, 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 Policy

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 (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted
during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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. Visit UNT’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://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 [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship
violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses. See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student’s permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student’s written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.

2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.

3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students’ images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.
Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health
UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names
A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns
Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don’t assume someone’s name, we should also ask and not assume someone’s pronouns.
You can **add your pronouns to your Canvas account** so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc. Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- **What are pronouns and why are they important?**
- **How do I use pronouns?**
- **How do I share my pronouns?**
- **How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?**
- **How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?**

### Additional Student Support Services

- **Registrar** ([https://registrar.unt.edu/registration](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration))
- **Financial Aid** ([https://financialaid.unt.edu/](https://financialaid.unt.edu/))
- **Student Legal Services** ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services))
- **Career Center** ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center))
- **Multicultural Center** ([https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center))
- **Counseling and Testing Services** ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services))
- **Pride Alliance** ([https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance))
- **UNT Food Pantry** ([https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry))

### Academic Support Services

- **Academic Resource Center** ([https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources))
- **Academic Success Center** ([https://success.unt.edu/asc](https://success.unt.edu/asc))
- **UNT Libraries** ([https://library.unt.edu/](https://library.unt.edu/))
- **Writing Lab** ([http://writingcenter.unt.edu/](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/))

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

### Course Outline:
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<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>INTRODUCTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Introduction and Syllabus</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
<td>Introduction: Theories of Contemporary art</td>
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<th>WEEK 2</th>
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<td>September 27</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
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<th>WEEK 6</th>
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<td>October 4</td>
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| WEEK 7 | October 11 | Read: Bishop, Claire. "Antagonism and Relational Aesthetics."
Journal Entry 6 Due (before class) |
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<td>October 13</td>
<td><strong>INDEPENDENT RESEARCH DAY – NO CLASS</strong></td>
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|        | October 18 | Read: Kwon, Miwon. "One Place after Another: Notes on Site Specificity."
Journal Entry 7 Due (before class)
*Presentation Group 4* |
|        | October 20 |                                                                   |
|        | October 25 | Read: Wu, Chin-Tao. “Biennials without Borders?”
Journal Entry 8 Due (before class) |
|        | October 27 | *In-class film: Paris is Burning*                                |
Journal Entry 9 Due (before class)
*Presentation Group 5* |
|        | November 3 | **Visit to the Fashion Collection** ART 259                      |
| WEEK 9 | November 8 | Read: Krauss, Rosalind. "Informe" without Conclusion.
*Presentation Group 6*
Journal Entry 10 Due (before class) |
|        | November 10|                                                                   |
|        | November 15| Read: Vance, Carole S. “The War on Culture”
Journal Entry 11 Due (before class)
*Presentation Group 7* |
|        | November 17|                                                                   |
| WEEK 13 | November 22 | Read: Mercer, Kobena. "Looking for Trouble."  
*Journal Entry 12 Due (before class)*  
*Presentation Group 8* |
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<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td><em>THANKSGIVING DAY – NO CLASS</em></td>
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*Journal Entry 13 Due (before class)*  
*Presentation Group 9* |
| December 1 | Visit to the Exhibition — "A Banquet for Seaweed: Snapshots from the Arab 1980s," Dr. Nada Shabout, curator, CVAD Gallery, UNT Art Building, Room 160 |
| WEEK 15 | December 6 | Final Group Presentations - Groups 1-5 |
| December 8 | Final Group Presentations – Groups 6-9  
**FINAL PAPER DUE** |