

DAWSON COLLEGE
INTRODUCTION TO ARTS AND CULTURE (502-113-DW 01)

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Arts and Culture: Art Criticism
WORKLOAD (per week): 2-2-3
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2019
INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Brian Redekopp
OFFICE NO.: 3D.15
E-MAIL OR OTHER: MIO
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 2:30-4, Thurs. 2-3:30

STATEMENT OF THE COMPETENCY

Explain the basic characteristics of an arts, literature and communication field.

ELEMENTS OF THE COMPETENCY

1. Situate key periods or movements.
2. Make connections with social and cultural changes.
3. Compare cultural objects both synchronously and diachronously.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This required course will introduce students to the Arts and Culture profile from a multi-disciplinary perspective so as to situate the study of artistic expression within the evolution of art and society. The theme of the course will be *art criticism*, a tradition and genre of writing that carefully describes, interprets and evaluates art. Focusing on at least three key periods in the history of art criticism from the eighteenth century to the present, and through a series of case studies, we will consider such questions as the value and purpose of artistic creation, how art conveys meaning, whether and how art should be evaluated, and the multiple perspectives from which an artistic creation can be studied and appreciated. Students will go on at least three outings so as to encourage their exploration of different modes of artistic expression. They will also have an assignment built around a visit to the library and library research.

REQUIRED TEXT

- There are no texts to buy for this course. All readings will be posted on Léa.

The total reading for the course, including reading done in class, will be approximately 200 pages.

TEACHING METHODS/LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Classes will consist of a lecture component and an activity component. The lecture component will be devoted primarily to presenting the material, and so will consist mainly of lectures, video and discussion. The activity component will be devoted to individual and group exercises designed to deepen understanding of the material and to develop skills in writing and critical thinking.

- PowerPoint *outlines* of each class will be available on Léa before the class and will remain on Léa for the remainder of the term. Note, however, that these outlines are no substitute for notes, so it will be very important to take good notes.

A NOTE ON GALLERY VISITS

Gallery visits are an integral component of this course. We will be doing three gallery visits this semester, with admission fees totaling less than \$40. Keep in mind that there is no required text for this course, so these fees represent the total cost for learning tools. These events are mandatory and will be incorporated into learning activities and assignments.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF COURSE CONTENT

Week 1: Course overview and introduction to art criticism.

Week 2: The beginnings of art criticism: Diderot and the French *salons* of the 18th century.
How to describe art.

Week 3: Baudelaire and the 19th century *salons*.
Describing art, cont'd.

Week 4: Gallery Visit 1: Interactive Tour at the MAC. Practice describing art.
<https://macm.org/en/education/program-for-college-students-and-adults/>

Week 5: Apollinaire and *avant-garde* art in the early 20th century.
How to interpret art.

Week 6: Interpreting art: philosophical difficulties.

Week 7: Library research class.

Week 8: Gallery Visit 2: TBA. Practice interpreting art.

Week 9: *ARTnews* and the poet-critics.
How to evaluate art.

Week 10: Clement Greenberg and formalist art criticism.
Evaluating art, cont'd.

Week 11: Gallery Visit 3: *Omar Ba: Same Dream* Exhibition at the MMFA. Practice evaluating art.
<https://www.mbam.qc.ca/en/exhibitions/on-view/omar-ba/>

Week 12: Rosalind Krauss and political art criticism.
Evaluating art, cont'd.

Week 13: Contemporary art criticism: Is it relevant? Should it be evaluative?
Guest talk by a Montreal art critic.
<https://momus.ca/>

Week 14: Contemporary art criticism cont'd.
Workshop for final project.

Week 15: Concluding reflections.
In-class bonus assignment.

EVALUATION TOOLS/ASSIGNMENTS

Type of evaluation tool/assignment	Due date	% of final mark
Reading assignments Various homework assignments pertaining to assigned readings.	Throughout the term	22.5% (9 x 2.5%)
Exit quizzes At the end of most classes, there will be a short quiz pertaining to that class's material. Students can use their notes.	Throughout the term	16% (8 x 2%)
Library research assignment	Week 8	5%
Informal writing assignments Various writing exercises done in class and in conjunction with gallery visits.	Throughout the term	20% (1-4% each)
Formal writing assignments Assignment 1 (800-1000 words): A piece of art criticism that describes and interprets.	Week 9	11.5%
Assignment 2 (1200-1500 words): A comprehensive piece of art criticism that describes, interprets and evaluates.	Week 15	25%
In-class bonus assignment	Week 15	+3%

Additional comments

- **Make-up quizzes or assignments** : Students who miss an in-class quiz or assignment will be given the chance to make up for it only on the following conditions: (1) there was a legitimate reason for their absence, (2) the student informed the instructor of their absence in advance.

- All students will have their work graded solely on the basis of the Evaluation Tools listed above. **No student will be given additional assignments in order to improve their grade.**
- A passing grade in this course is 60%.
- **In order to pass the course, one must receive a grade of at least 60% on Writing Assignment 2.** If the student does not pass this assignment, the maximum grade the student will receive for the course is 50%.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

- Late writing assignments will be accepted for up to one week after the deadline. During this period a penalty of 2% per day, including weekends, will apply. **After this period, the work will no longer be accepted and will receive a zero.** Extensions will only be granted *in advance* of the due date and for good reasons.

COLLEGE AND COURSE POLICIES

ISEP

The Institutional Student Evaluation Policy (ISEP) is designed to promote equitable and effective evaluation of student learning and is therefore a crucial policy to read and understand. The policy describes the rights and obligations of students, faculty, departments, programs, and the College administration with regard to evaluation in all your courses, including grade reviews and resolution of academic grievance. The ISEP is available on the Dawson website.

DEPARTMENT LITERACY POLICY

College-level English will be expected for all work submitted, and spelling, grammar and clarity will be part of the basis for evaluating the writing assignment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Every instance of cheating or plagiarism leading to a resolution that impacts a student's grade must be reported, with explanation, in writing, to the appropriate Dean. (ISEP Section V-A)
- **Students will receive a zero for any test or assignment in which they cheat or plagiarize.**
- To encourage a better understanding of academic integrity, Turnitin will be used in this course. Please note that Turnitin, an internet-based plagiarism prevention tool, may keep a copy of the work submitted but does not claim ownership of the work. If you have concerns about your work being submitted to Turnitin for review, please see the teacher within the first two weeks.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Everyone has the right to a safe and non-violent environment. Students are obliged to conduct themselves as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and in the ISEP section on the roles and responsibilities of students. (ISEP Section II-D) In order to make for an effective learning environment,

students are expected to be attentive and respectful. So:

- Please do not talk during lectures, since this distracts others.
- Please put up your hand and wait to be recognized if you would like to ask a question or raise a point, so as not to interrupt either myself or other students. In other words, our basic rule is that only one person is to talk at a time.
- Please put away phones for the duration of the class.
- Please be polite when communicating with me by email. While I will usually respond to emails within 24 hours, I will only guarantee a response within 48 hours.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Regular attendance is essential for your success in this course. It is your responsibility to participate and complete the course requirements. Attendance does not count for part of the grade. Students should refer to the Institutional Student Evaluation Policy (Section IV-C) regarding attendance.

INTENSIVE COURSE CONFLICTS

If a student is attending an intensive course, the student must inform the teacher, within the first two (2) weeks of class, of the specific dates of any anticipated absences.

POLICY ON RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Students observing religious holidays must inform their teachers, in writing, as prescribed in the ISEP policy on Religious Observances, no later than the end of the second week of the impacted semester or term. This applies both to the semester or term, as well as to any final examination period (ISEP section IV-D).