ARTH 3399: Special Topics in Art History
Artistic Identity in the Twentieth Century
University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2019

CRN: 24199
Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.
Classroom: Fox Fine Arts A458 (4th floor)
Professor: Dr. Melissa Warak
Email: mcwarak@utep.edu
Office Hours: T/Th 1:30 to 3:00 and by appointment; sign up sheet is on office door
Office: Fox Fine Arts A454
Office Phone: (915) 747-7849 (during office hours)

ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR
Dr. Melissa Warak is Assistant Professor of Art History and specializes in the relationship of music and sound to art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Dr. Warak earned a B.A. in English literature and art history from Vanderbilt University, an M.A. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin. Her current research focuses on the ways that visual artists from the mid-fifties to late sixties employed musical models in their work. Aside from musical and sound art, her research interests include the history of abstraction, spirituality in modern and contemporary art, science and technology in modern and contemporary art, and astronomy in art. Her research has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, the Getty Research Institute, the Royal Music Association of the United Kingdom, The Menil Collection in Houston, the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Kress Foundation, and the Yale University Art Galleries, among others.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the concept of artistic identity from the late nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries. We will explore how an artist's identity plays a role in the way that his or her art looks, but will also discuss the representation of others' identities through art of this period. The course is not a general history of identity-based art, but will consider it theoretically, thematically, and through case studies.

Please note that this course is deeply infused with a politics of feminism, neurodivergence, gender and queer studies, postcolonialism, and critical race studies as part of art historical study of identity. We will seriously consider art that deals frankly with bodies, sexuality, race, religion, and violence. Further, some of the art we will study was created with the intention of challenging the comfort levels of the viewer. In that sense, we should all strive to create a classroom environment that is open to ideas and respectful to difference of opinion. It is not expected that you should enjoy – in a conventional sense – or agree with the ideological premises of all of the art explored in this course. Please come see your professor in the first week of class if you would like to discuss any concerns about this.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
During this course, students will develop their understanding of the ways that identity plays a role in modern and contemporary art and acquire skills essential to the study of art history. These include the following:
1. Developing writing skills, oral presentation competencies, and points of view needed by professional art historians.
2. Learning to find and use resources for answering research questions and problems.
3. Analyzing and critically evaluating ideas and arguments.
4. Gaining knowledge of the terminology, trends, and methodologies used to study modern and contemporary

art.

TEXTS / RESOURCES
We do not have a single textbook for this course. Selected articles and book chapters will be posted to the course's related Blackboard page as downloadable PDFs (see schedule). Students are responsible for downloading these from Blackboard. All readings listed for the day need to be completed before the class period.

GRADING POLICY
This course will have **two exams**. Students will write **one paper** with a research component. An assignment sheet for the project will be posted to Blackboard and students will be graded on their active participation during the designated **peer review** day. Each student will be responsible for **teaching / presenting** on an artist or topic on a given class day. Students will also be graded on **discussion participation** in class; points will be assigned for both the first and second halves of the semester. A good rule of thumb is to try to contribute *at least* once per class (via ideas, questions, or responses to other students). Lastly, we will have eleven **reading quizzes** (worth 10 points each) throughout the semester. There will be no makeup quizzes, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

This course will be graded on a **scale of 500 points** (note that Blackboard shows a potential 510 points due to the dropped quiz grade).

Reading Quizzes (11):	100 points
Participation I:	25 points
Participation II:	25 points
Presentation:	35 points
Exam 1:	100 points
Exam 2:	100 points
Peer Review:	15 points
Research Paper:	100 points

Therefore, here is the point breakdown for grades:
448 – 500 points: A
397 – 447 points: B
347 – 396 points: C
297 – 346 points: D
000 – 296 points: F

READING QUIZZES
Students will take the daily ten-minute reading quizzes at the beginning of class. Be sure to arrive to class on time. There are no makeup quizzes. Unlike the exams, the quizzes are NOT open note. The quizzes may be on one or all of the readings assigned for a given day and will likely be short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false questions. To prepare for these, you should make sure to read the texts carefully and take notes on them in your notebook (this will also help with the exams). You may find it useful to skim the readings once for the larger issues at stake and then take notes during a second more careful reading. Be sure that you can identify the author's arguments and the primary evidence used to support them. As you read, think critically about what might be useful about the texts for our course topic.

TAKING NOTES IN CLASS
Exam material will come from ideas discussed in class; the readings supplement lectures and discussions. Completing the readings will not take the place of attendance and participation in class. It is critical that students take notes in class. Think of the exams as a way to show off what you have learned in class. I recommend bringing a notebook designated just for this course. Using bullet points will help you write down more information.

Vocabulary and important terms will be written on the Powerpoint presentation slides and you should pay special attention to these terms and the works of art where they may be applicable. Basic identifying information for each work will also be provided on the Powerpoints (artist name, title, date); these will be uploaded to Blackboard for your use. It is a good idea to date your notes so you know what we covered each day. It is also a good idea to take notes on the class readings in your notebooks.

EXAMS
Exams will consist of a single essay question (you will have a choice among three or four topics). We will not have specific image lists for each exam. Instead, students will decide on appropriate examples from class for their essay exams. Exams will be OPEN NOTE, so make sure to take notes extensively. Students will be allowed to bring the following to the exams: 1) notebook; 2) quizzes; and 3) student presentation handouts. You may not bring copies of the readings or class Powerpoint presentations. The exams are not cumulative. See me during office hours for help improving your note-taking skills. Students will not be allowed to leave the room and may be asked to put phones and Apple Watches (or similar) at the front of the room during the exams.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)
Policy in short:
Allowed absences (including illness) without penalty = **3 absences**
Tardies = **½ absence**
Automatic drop = **6 absences or 2 absences before Feb. 6**
Attendance bonus = **10 points**

Policy in detail:
Class attendance is a requirement and use of the full class period is expected unless otherwise stated. An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each lecture; make sure you (and only you) sign it every day. Students should never sign the attendance sheet for anyone else or ask anyone to sign for them.

You are allowed **three absences** for *any reason* without grading consequences. It is up to your discretion how you use these, including for illness, and you do not need to notify me in advance except in the case of a religious holy day (see below). **More than three absences from class will result in a lowering of your overall grade by twenty points per absence** (remember that this class is graded on a scale of 500 points). In the case of an illness or emergency that causes you to miss more than three consecutive class days, you will want to drop the course. Students who are more than **five minutes late** or who leave early without permission will be given half credit for attendance. **Tardies / half credits** will figure into the absence count. **Six absences will result in an automatic drop from the course**; this includes tardies. Students with two or more absences by the census date (Feb. 6) will be dropped. That said, students will receive an **attendance bonus** of ten points to the final course grade with perfect attendance and zero tardies (no exceptions; attendance must be 100%).

Students are responsible for acquiring notes and announcements made during missed classes, so make a friend and exchange contact information. Dr. Warak will keep a running tally of absences in a column on the Gradebook section of Blackboard.

EMAIL POLICY
All course correspondence from me will take place via Blackboard's email function. Make sure that you are receiving emails through Blackboard and that you have a current email address on file. Please note that, due to FERPA regulations, I will not email with students about grades. If you have a question or concern about a grade, please visit office hours or make an appointment. If you would like to Skype with me during office hours

(username: melissa.warak), please let me know in advance. Additionally, if you have a question that requires a long answer, I may ask you to come see me in person to save time. Lastly, please remember that emails are considered a form of professional correspondence and a little courtesy goes a long way.

LAPTOPS, TABLETS, AND PHONES

Students may not use computers and other electronic devices (including recording devices) during class. It is important that students focus their attention on the lectures and projected images without distractions and that they take careful and detailed notes. Cell phones and tablets should be silent and kept out of sight. Their bright lights are very distracting in a dark classroom. You will be reprimanded if you are caught using your phone in the classroom; repeat offenses will result in being asked to leave class with an absence penalty. If a cell phone or an Apple Watch is in any way visible during an examination, that student will automatically fail the exam; for this reason, students should expect to bring their phones to the front of the classroom during exams and retrieve the phone upon turning in the exam.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Please be respectful of other students in the classroom. The classroom door will be open for five minutes after class begins; after that, tardies will be given. Inappropriate behavior includes coming late or leaving early, using phones or electronic devices for any reason, passing notes, excessive whispering with friends, and packing bags before class is over. Use the restroom BEFORE class, as entering or leaving the room is very distracting. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with UTEP policy. You may bring food and drinks, but the drinks must have a sealable lid. **A note on bags:** please make sure your bag is small enough to fit fully under your chair. If not, you will be asked to put it to the side of the classroom. Art supplies, gym bags, and other items will need to be stored on the shelves in the classroom to keep the floor tidy.

MAKE-UP POLICY

The paper assignment sheet explains a late work policy. There are no makeup exams or quizzes, except in extreme circumstances documented with the Dean of Students. Plan your semester accordingly.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic dishonesty or cheating will result in failure in this course. All students are expected to engage in their academic pursuits in a professional manner and to maintain honesty and integrity. Students are responsible for knowing the requirements of academic honesty set forth by UTEP. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty. See the UTEP policy on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty: http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities provided that they are registered with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) and procure the proper documentation: http://sa.utep.edu/cass (telephone: (915) 747-5148). Students with documented disabilities should make sure that the professor receives the appropriate paperwork from CASS within the first week of class. Please note that CASS is available to help students with any disabilities, documented illness (including anxiety, depression, and PTSD), and in the case of short-term disability (broken bones, etc.).

POLICY FOR STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20….” See your professor at least a week in advance if you intend to miss class in observance of a religious holy day.