AAD 250: Art and Human Values
Winter 2011
Course Syllabus
Classroom: this is a 100% on-line course
http://blackboard.uoregon.edu AAD 250 Art & Human Values

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Ballard
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Office/hours: Virtual. I am usually able to respond to e-mails within 48 hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will address fundamental, theoretical, and practical questions that result from a view of art as a powerful communicator of social and cultural values. Participants, by addressing these questions, will examine their own and others’ aesthetic values as a means of understanding art and advancing multicultural and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis will be placed upon individual interpretation and experience in local, national, or international settings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
It is anticipated that participants in this course will:
1. Consider the arts within cultural, historical, and philosophical contexts.
2. Examine political, geographical, and economic influences that shape the ways that we perceive and define the arts.
3. Investigate the influence of the arts on shaping human values, and of human values in shaping the context, form, and practice of the various arts forms.
4. Examine definitions of art and aesthetics in order to understand the historical and social underpinnings of the relative value placed on various forms of art making.
5. Adopt a critical perspective regarding art, culture, and values.

Students will have opportunities to participate in aesthetic critique as well as in arts creation. Students are encouraged to bring their own perspective and experience to the examination of different art forms. Multiple interpretations from students and critical readings are encouraged and deemed important to our discussions and analysis. Classes place a high value on participation, as individuals and within groups.

General Education Multicultural Requirement Fulfillment: This course satisfies your general education multicultural requirement in Group I: Arts and Letters, Category B: Identity, Pluralism, and Tolerance. The goal of multicultural study is for you "...to gain scholarly insight into the construction of collective identities, the emergence of representative voices from varying social and cultural standpoints, and the effects of prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination. The identities at issue may include ethnicities as well as classes, genders, religions, sexual orientations, or other groups whose experiences contribute to cultural pluralism. This category includes courses that analyze the general principles underlying tolerance, or the lack of it." (See: http://www.uoregon.edu/~uopubs/bulletin/registration_and_academi.shtml#Multicultural Requirement)
**COURSE TEXT:**
Course materials and readings are web-based.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS and EXPECTATIONS:**
1. Completion of weekly readings and assignments
2. Thoughtful participation in discussion topics
3. Completion of midterm and final project.

If you do not complete all assigned work, you will not be eligible for an "A" in this class (regardless of your point total).

Assignment Details and points are found on-line.

**COURSE CONDUCT:**
Material presented in this course can be controversial and involve contentious discussion. A variety of opinions and ideas are encouraged and appreciated. Participation in this class assumes:

a) the dignity and essential worth of all participants is respected.
b) the privacy, property, and freedom of all participants will be respected.
c) bigotry, discrimination, violence, and intimidation will not be tolerated.
d) personal and academic integrity is expected.

**PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. You are also welcome to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, neurological impairment; orthopedic impairment; traumatic brain injury; visual impairment; chronic medical conditions; emotional/psychological disabilities; hearing impairment; and learning disabilities.

**ACADEMIC DISCOURSE - What does it mean to participate in a college course discussion?** (adapted from R. Voelker-Morris, 2008).
Within your interactions with other students, it is expected that there is to be a respect shown to various viewpoints and experiences. This does not mean we have to agree with each other; indeed my expectation is that we are challenging each other's and our own ideas, but that we are building upon disagreements and agreements to create a shared body of knowledge each week.

Additionally, as with any academic forum of research and discourse there are certain expectations for the ways in which a student approaches the course materials. This means that we are going beyond the personal and very informal discussion that is found in other venues (blogs, Facebook, coffee shop, dorm room, etc.).
ACADEMIC HONESTY:
(adapted from J. Rutherford, 2005 and Southwestern College Integrative Studies
Program, 1999)
Plagiarism is a serious offense. The consequences for using the words of another without
quotation marks or citation, or of using the ideas and conclusions of another without
citation, are severe. In this course, such academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.
Plagiarism on any written assignment is unacceptable and may be grounds for automatic
failure on a given assignment. Penalties may range from having to rewrite an assignment,
to failing the assignment, to failing the course.

NOTES ON GRADING:
I do not usually offer extra credit assignments but MAY offer the opportunity to rewrite
select papers. This allows the option of improving your writing skills as well as your
grade. Please complete all assigned work. If you do not complete all assigned work, you
will not be eligible for an "A" in this class (regardless of your point total).

Late Assignments
Late assignments are negotiable with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to
contact me about the possibility of turning in an assignment for late credit. Late
assignments will not be accepted without prior arrangement with the instructor.
Assignments will not be accepted after the last day of classes for the term.
Grading for late assignments may result in one letter grade lower for each week they are
late.

Grade Disputes
Should you wish to dispute a grade received, please wait to respond to the grade for 24
hours. Then, please write and submit a detailed response outlining your dispute of the
assigned grade. If we are unable to reach an agreement, the next step is for us to transfer
to issue to administrative faculty with the Arts and Administration Program. The
administrative faculty member will attempt to resolve the dispute but if no resolution is
reached, will inform you of the next step in the university's appeals process for students
in all courses.

Requesting an Incomplete
An incomplete may be issued when the quality of work is satisfactory, but some minor
yet essential requirement has not been completed, for reasons acceptable to the instructor.
The student will be responsible for requesting an incomplete for a course and negotiating
a contract with the faculty member to complete the course requirements. An incomplete
is granted at the discretion of faculty and WILL NOT be granted without a signed
contract. AAD has a form will that serve as the contract that outlines, in writing, the
requirements for clearing the incomplete, including a deadline for completion. Both the
student and the faculty member will receive a copy of this contract. The faculty will place
her/his copy of the contract in the student’s permanent file in the AAD Program Office.
The student is responsible for meeting the terms of this contract by the agreed-upon
deadline. The faculty member is responsible for ensuring that a grade is reported no later
than three weeks after receipt from the student of all work identified as needed to fulfill
this contract.