AAD 250: Art & Human Values

Location: Online - https://blackboard.uoregon.edu
Instructor: David Bretz
Email: dbretz@uoregon.edu
Office: Cyberspace
AAD Office: 251E Lawrence Hall (Office Mail Box)
Phone: (541) 346-3639 (Leave message for emergencies only...)
Office Hours: By appointment - Please e-mail for an online appointment.

Class Description:
This course will address fundamental, theoretical, and practical questions that result from a view of art as a powerful social and cultural force. We will explore socio-cultural factors that influence human values from a perspective of the visual and performing arts. As a participant in this course, you will address these questions and examine influential factors through your own and others' aesthetic values as a means of understanding art and advancing multicultural and cross-cultural understanding. You will explore how various art forms are influential in building and creating culture and become a voice of culture. Emphasis will be placed upon individual interpretation and experience in local, national and international settings. This course will consider approaches to multiple perspectives in art through select historical and contemporary analysis of education, social status, subject matter, criticism, and public perceptions. Additionally, students will explore social, political, aesthetic, and economic factors that influence ways cultures define art and artists. Specific artists will be researched in a context of time and place. Students will be encouraged to adopt a critical perspective regarding the arts, human values, and culture.

Course Objectives:
It is anticipated that participants in this course will:
- Consider culturally based versus universally based theories of art;
- Examine the political, regional, economic, technological, religious/spiritual, ethnic, gender, and generational influences that shape conceptions of art and artists;
- Investigate the role of art to both communicate and perpetuate personal/cultural values;
- Examine contemporary and historical cross-cultural examples of art as an agent of social/cultural change and stability;

Course Requirements
1. Attendance/Class participation: Attendance and class participation are crucial to this course. Participation will be tracked and impact your grade.
   The Discussion Forum and Journal serve as a primary means to explore and expand course topics with your peers. Students need to contribute to the discussion numerous times throughout the course for full participation.
2. Completion of weekly reading and written assignments
3. Completion of midterm.
4. Group Art Experience Project
5. Completion of research project and presentation.
6. Completion of Final Reflective Paper
7. Contribution to class discussions.

Assignments & Grading: Total Points Possible 100
Each assignment carries a designated point value:

Blackboard Assignments (2 points ea.) 20 points
Journals (3 points ea.) 18 points
Mid-term Art Project 15 points
Group Project 10 points
Group Reflection 7 points
Term Research Paper 15 points
Final Reflective Exam 15 points

Total 100 points

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS:
You must have a UO email account. The firewalls on the UO server may prevent your hotmail and yahoo email from getting through. This can create significant communication problems. So make sure you have a UO email! Also, all essays and written assignments will need to be MSWord documents. (I cannot open works, wordperfect, etc.). UO provides free computer support and free email accounts for all university students, if you have any questions or problems.

Course Text
The textbook, Art and Human Values edited by Gregory Gurly is required and may be purchased at the University of Oregon Bookstore or online. Text ISBN: 978-1-60927-837-3

Selected readings will be provided on-line in Blackboard, and students will be directed to Web sites for further required reading. Students may also select library resources and/or their own Web-based readings, based on a their interests and research topic(s).

Course Materials and Discussions:
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 that:
1. The dignity and essential worth of all participants is respected
2. The privacy, property, and freedom of participants will be respected
3. Bigotry, discrimination, violence, or intimidation will not be tolerated
4. Personal and academic integrity is expected

Participants with disabilities:
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make an appointment with me during the first week of the term. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability. The current counselor is Hilary Gerdes at 346-3211. 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 Writing:
Written work requires proper academic composition structure, spelling, grammar, and clarity of writing. These requirements will be a part of the grading on all written assignments and exams. Proper citing of any and all authors’ quotes, ideas and/or the paraphrasing of another’s quotes or ideas is required. Any and all online resources will be cited whether the author is named or not.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarizing from authors, websites, or other students will not be tolerated. If a student is discovered to have plagiarized in any class projects, written
assignments, and/or exams, the student will receive an “F” and be removed from the class. If you have questions about plagiarism, please read the University of Oregon Student Handbook. For student information and assistance the materials from the Knight Library website regarding plagiarism is available by accessing the following website:

http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/