

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	MA in Art History and Visual Culture
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Art and Its Histories
Course Code:	AVC 7102
Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	21
Independent Learning Hours:	140
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

Explores a range of theories and methods which situate writings about art in their historical context, from the traditional associated with biographical methods, formal analysis and connoisseurship to more contemporary approaches including social art history, semiotics, feminist art history and psychoanalytic methods. Students examine a variety of texts as methods of interpreting and writing about art in the twenty-first century.

Prerequisites:

MA students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the history of thinking in art history
- To explore and engage critically with a range of theories and methods art historians and other writers have used to examine art
- To examine a variety of examples of art in their interpretative contexts
- To develop visual literacy including formal analysis
- To engage critically with texts and objects

Programme Outcomes:

A1, B1, B2, B4, B5, C1, C3, D3

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- demonstrate a comprehensive and systematic knowledge of theories and methods required for examining art in an international setting, drawing on art and design history, and visual culture studies
- deploy sophisticated visual literacy including formal analysis
- show systematic, critical engagement with texts and objects
- show excellent writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence
- demonstrate professional presentation skills including verbal visual analysis, communicated clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate the ability to approach a complex problem/topic from a variety of sophisticated methodological, interdisciplinary, and comparative approaches

Indicative Content:

- history of interpretation in art history
- theories and methods art historians have used to examine art
- a variety of sources including contemporary methods in practice
- visual literacy including formal analysis
- critical engagement with texts and objects

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas; examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion, dialogue and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Indicative Text(s):

Elkins, J. (2014) *What is Interesting Writing in Art History?* Andrew Carnegie Lecture Series

- D'Alleva A. & M. Cothren, (2021) *Methods & Theories of Art History* (London: Lawrence King, third edition).
- Fernie, E. (ed.), (1995) *Art History and Its Methods: A Critical Anthology* (Oxford: Phaidon).
- Hatt, M. & C. Klonk, (2006) *Art History: A Critical Introduction to its Methods* (Manchester: Manchester University Press).
- Pollock, G. (2015) *Vision and Difference: Femininity, Feminism and Histories of Art* (London: Routledge, third edition)
- Preziosi, D. & C. Farago (eds), (2019) *Grasping the World: The Idea of the Museum* (Abingdon: Routledge)
- Rose, S. (2002) *Interpreting Art*, London: UCL Press.
- Troelenberg, E.M. (2021) *Reading Objects in the Contact Zone*, Heidelberg University Press

Journals

The Journal of Art Historiography, University of Birmingham

Web Sites

Links to videos, journal and newspaper articles, websites and other resources relevant to the exhibition we study are provided during the course.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)
Updated indicative texts	Dept, Jan 23
Updated learning outcomes	Dept, Jan 23
Updated course description	Dept, Jan 23
Revision – annual update	May 2023
Total hours updated	April 2024