

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	Art History and Visual Culture Film & Photography
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Art History: Theory and Methods
Course Code:	AVC 5215
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Explores a range of theories and methods which situate art in its historical context, from the more traditional methods associated with formal analysis and connoisseurship (formalist, biographical, and iconographic) to more recent theoretical approaches (such as postcolonial, semiotic, feminist, queer, psychoanalytic, and Marxist perspectives). Students examine a variety of thinkers and their theories and methods, and apply this thinking to visual examples, which may range from the Renaissance to the present.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the history of thinking in art history
- To explore the theories and methods art historians have used to examine art
- To examine a variety of examples of Western art in context
- To develop visual literacy including formal analysis

Programme Outcomes:

Art History and Visual Culture: A5(i), A5(iii), B5(iii), C5(i), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(i), D5(ii), D5(iii)
Film and Photography: A5(i), A5(iii), B5(iii), C5(i), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(i), D5(ii), D5(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are 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 good knowledge of the main thinkers who have contributed to the discipline of art history
- show a broad understanding of the theories and methods required for examining Western art
- demonstrate sound skills in visual literacy including formal analysis
- complete assigned work with a degree of autonomy, technical competence, clarity, evaluative skills, and research and critical reading skills appropriate for a 5000-level course
- demonstrate broad analytical, groupwork and presentation skills that are relevant to the workplace

Indicative Content:

- history of thinking in art history
- theories and methods art historians have used to examine art
- a variety of examples of Western art in context
- visual literacy including formal analysis

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 be taught through classroom lectures and seminar classes, and through a series of closely guided site visits, with the intent of using London itself, and its environs, as the 'living' classroom. Lectures will follow the schedule detailed in the syllabus and are structured as surveys and overviews of both accepted knowledge and current debate on each theme/topic. Short seminars will be held as feed-back opportunities in the subsequent session following each site visit, with a view to ensuring the integration of individual learning/interpretation from each site into the learning of the whole class. Seminars rely upon active student preparation, note-taking, and response to each site, and will consist of student-led discussion of historical, perceptual and heritage issues arising from each site. Visits will comprise tutor mini-lectures and explanations, student independent exploration, small group and full group exploration and guided discussion.

Indicative Texts:

D'Alleva, A. *Methods & Theories of Art History*. 3rd edition (London, Lawrence

King, 2021).

D'Alleva, A. *How to Write Art History*, 2nd edition (London, Lawrence King, 2010).

Hatt, M. & C. Klonk *Art History: A Critical Introduction to its Methods*, 1st edition (Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2016).

Preziosi, D. (ed.) *The Art of Art History: A Critical Anthology*. (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009).

Journals:

Mirzoeff, Nicholas. 'Empty the Museum, Decolonize the Curriculum, Open Theory', *Nordic Journal of Aesthetics*, 53, 2017, 6–22.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – Annual Update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	