

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	MA in Art History and Visual Culture
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Contemporary Art
Course Code:	AVC 7104
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:

Engages students with the diversity of contemporary artistic practice in an international setting, situating this historically, conceptually and theoretically. Students will consider critically the diversity of and interface between contemporary visual practices on a global scale, situating these within current theoretical concerns, and examining a wide range of case studies and the social, cultural and political issues emerging from these. Extensive use will be made of London's galleries and thriving multicultural contemporary art scene, with examples drawn from such case studies as the Middle East, Africa, India, China, Russia, Europe and the USA.

Prerequisites:

MA Art History and Visual Culture students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the diversity of contemporary artistic practice
- To explore the international setting of contemporary art
- To examine the historical, conceptual and theoretical context of contemporary art
- To analyse the social, cultural and political issues emerging from Contemporary art practices
- To consider the representation of contemporary art in museums and galleries
- To engage critically with texts and objects
- To develop students' visual literacy including formal analysis

Programme Outcomes:

A1, B1, B2, B4, B5, C1, C4, 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 theirs connected to contemporary art
- 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

Indicative Content:

- diversity of contemporary artistic practice
- international setting of contemporary art
- historical, conceptual and theoretical context of contemporary art
- social, cultural and political issues emerging from contemporary art practices
- representation of contemporary art in museums and galleries
- 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 and 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):

- Dumbadze, A & S. Hudson. (2013) *Contemporary Art: 1989 to the Present*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Fillitz, T & Van Der Grijp, P. (2018) *An Anthology of Contemporary Practices: Practices, Markets, and Collectors*, Bloomsbury
- Harris, J. (2017) *The Global Contemporary Art World*, Wiley Blackwell
- Holtaway, J. (2021) *World Forming and Contemporary Art: Routledge Focus on Art History and Visual Studies*, Routledge
- Lymeropoulou, Angeliki & P. Bracewell-Homer & J. Robinson (eds). (2012) *Art & Visual Culture: A Reader*, London: Tate Publishing.
- Meskimmon, M. (2010) *Contemporary Art and the Cosmopolitan Imagination*. (London: Routledge).
- Perry, G. and Wood, P. (2021) *Themes in Contemporary Art*. 5th edition (New Haven, Conn. & London: Yale University Press).
- Robertson, J & C. McDaniel & S. Contreras-Koterbay. (2021) *Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Smith. T. (2011) *Contemporary Art: World Currents*. (London: Laurence King).
- Spring, C. (2008) *Angaza Afrika: African Art Now*. (London: Laurence King).

Journals**Web Sites**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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
Revision – annual update	May 2023
Total hours updated	April 2024

