

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	Art History and Visual Culture International History
<i>FHEQ</i> Level:	5
Course Title:	Art in Context
Course Code:	AVC 5205
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:

This course critically engages with some of the major themes, methods, and approaches associated with the production, reception and interpretation of contemporary art. Beyond purely aesthetic considerations, students are encouraged to appreciate the historical narrative/s embedded within works of art. This course does not follow a standard art history chronological trajectory; rather, it is framed thematically in order to reveal the contextual interconnections that exist across time, space and media. Weekly visits to museums, galleries, and exhibitions, with their rich intercultural collections, provide an opportunity for students to engage directly with original art works and their display in order to exercise independent and informed critical judgement in analysis.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To critically engage with some of the major themes, methods, and approaches in contemporary art
- To consider specific representative examples of contemporary art
- To discuss, understand and develop a critical awareness of the ways in which the production, reception and interpretations of contemporary art is framed by specific cultural, social and political contexts
- To develop critical reading and research skills, presentation skills, writing skills and the ability to contribute to classroom and gallery discussions.

Programme Outcomes:

Art History and Visual Culture: A5(ii), A5(iii), B5(ii), C5(I), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(I), D5(ii), D5(iii)
International History: A5(I), B5(I), B5(ii), C5(I), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(I), D5(ii), D5(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes can be 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 detailed understanding of a variety of culturally diverse contemporary art on display in London
- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of key concepts in art history.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding and engagement with core theoretical and practical issues in contemporary art.
- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of key developments in art, understanding the political, social and economic contexts in which visual culture is created
- Demonstrate well-developed skills (eg; group work, report writing, oral presentation) which translate to workplace.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Postmodernism
- Contemporary painting
- Art and Film
- Installation art
- Art and politics

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 teaching method appropriate to this course is one of interactive discussion and co-operative assessment. The former takes place in class, with all students expected to be fully prepared to discuss an assigned topic in an informed manner. This seminar-style aspect of requires a high level of student participation. Classes will take the form of presentations by the lecturer with appropriate audiovisual support and in-class focused group discussion and exercises. In the museum and gallery situation, students will be divided into small groups and directed in close visual analysis and discussion. It should be noted that discussion will comprise a major element of this course and all students are expected to verbalise their thoughts and perceptions and to develop a critical response to the material under consideration. They must keep up with assignments, be prepared to ask questions, and discuss their readings. It is not possible to do well in this class if you do not participate.

IndicativeTexts:

Bate, David. *Photography after Postmodernism: Barthes, Stieglitz and the Art of Memory*, (Routledge, 2022)

Heartney, E. *Postmodernism*. (London: Tate, 2004).

Joselit, David. *Heritage and Debt: Art in Globalization*, (London: MIT Press, 2020)

Robertson, J. *Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980*, 4th edition
(New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Vanderlinden, Barbara, Filipovic, Elena. *The Manifesta Decade: Debates on Contemporary Art Exhibitions and Biennials in Post-Wall Europe* (London: MIT Press, 2005)

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 UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – Annual Update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	