COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: MA in Art History and Visual Culture

Level: 7

Course Title: Contemporary Art

Course Code: AVC 7104

Course Leader: Eszter Steierhoffer

Student Engagement Hours:200Seminars:39Tutorials:6Independent / Guided Learning:155

Semester: SPRING

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.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: 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:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

A3, A6, B1, B2, B4, B5

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- demonstrate critical intellectual awareness of contemporary art and its circulation in the global dealer-critic system
- show a sophisticated understanding and appreciation of a multidisciplinary culture
- 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 Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

FHEQ	Richmond/UK	Normal	Total assessment
level	Level	Number of	
		Items	
		(including	
		final exam)*	
LEVEL 7	R7000/UK MA	2-3	5000-7000 words

1500 word review of a current gallery show:
3000 word research essay:
40% due week 5
50% due week 14
10 minute oral presentation with written notes:
10%, sign up for one presentation (weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14)

Teaching Methodology:

SEMINARS

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.

Bibliography:

Meskimmon, M. Contemporary Art and the Cosmopolitan Imagination. (London: Routledge, 2010).

Perry, G. and Wood, P. *Themes in Contemporary Art.* (New Haven, Conn. & London: Yale University Press, 2004).

Smith. T. Contemporary Art: World Currents. (London: Laurence King, 2011).

Smith, T. What is Contemporary Art? (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Spring, C. Angaza Afrika: African Art Now. (London: Laurence King, 2008).

Tawadros, G. (ed.) Changing States: Contemporary Art and Ideas in the era of Globalisation. (London: inIVA, 2004).

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
			,