## **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:** Art and Its Histories

Course Code: AVC 7102

Course Leader: Dr Deborah Schultz

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

Semester: FALL

**Credits:** 20 UK CATS credits

10 ECTS credits 4 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 semiotics, feminism, psychoanalysis, deconstruction, Foucault). Students examine a variety of texts as strategies for determining and analyzing different theories and methods, and their application to visual examples with a focus on the twentieth century: situating the modern and postmodern precursors to art of the twenty-first century.

**Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites:** MA Art History and Visual Culture students only

#### Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the history of thinking in art history
- To explore and engage critically with the theories and methods art historians have used to examine art
- To examine a variety of examples of Western art in context
- To analyse the representation of Western art in museums and galleries
- To develop visual literacy including formal analysis
- To engage critically with texts and objects

## **Programme Outcomes:**

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

A1, 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 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

### **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
- representation of Western 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

Seminar presentation	20%	dates assigned in first class
Short essay	30%	week 7
Research paper	50%	week 13

## **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:**

Anne D'Alleva, Methods & Theories of Art History (London: Lawrence King, 2005). Eric Fernie (ed.), Art History and Its Methods: A Critical Anthology (Oxford: Phaidon, 1995). Michael Hatt & Charlotte Klonk, Art History: A Critical Introduction to its Methods (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006).

Donald Preziosi (ed.), *The Art of Art History: A Critical Anthology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Change Log for this CSD:

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