COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications & The Arts

Programme: MA in Art History and Visual Culture

Level: 7

Course Title: Art and Its Histories

Course Code: AVC 7102

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: 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 is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

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 University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies.

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