

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications & The Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	MA in Art History and Visual Culture
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	Contemporary Art
<b>Course Code:</b>	AVC 7104
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	200
Seminars:	39
Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
<b>Semester:</b>	SPRING
<b>Credits:</b>	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:** 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 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 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 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.

