

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	American Studies Art History & Visual Culture
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Pop to Present: Themes in Contemporary US Art
Course Code:	AMS 6103
Student Engagement Hours:	160
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Supervision:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	100
Credits:	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

The course is an in-depth critical examination of the major themes in US art from the 1950s until the Present. Key art movements and artists are investigated with reference to the cultural and socio-political milieus within which they emerged. The international influence of key movements and artists is emphasized throughout the course.

Prerequisites:

One of the following:

AVC 4205 Introduction to Visual Culture

COM 5205 Cultural Theory

AMS 5400 US Television Drama

AMS 5100 Politics and Elections in the USA

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide a critical historical, international and cultural framework for the analysis of late 20th and 21st century US art
- To provide a framework for critical understanding of the intersections between the creation of US art and other creative activities such as music, performance, and design
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of American Studies
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of interdisciplinary and transferable skills through the study of themes in American Studies
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

AMS: 6A(i); 6A(ii); 6B(i), 6B(ii); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iv)

AHVC: 6A(ii); 6A(iv); 6B(ii); 6B(iv); 6c(i); 6C(ii); 6C(iii); 6D(i); 6D(ii)

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:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the development of key movements and genres in US art since 1945.
- Demonstrate an insight into the ways in which US art influenced and was influenced by art movements in other parts of the world.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse a wide range of primary source material – including work on display in London’s galleries.
- Present research orally in a convincing and accessible manner, demonstrating adaptability to different contexts, audiences, and levels of complexity.
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course

Indicative Content:

- The origins and development of the New York School
- Neo-Dada and the Beat Movement
- Assemblage, Installations & Happenings
- British, US and European Pop Art.
- Pop Art and Pop Design
- Minimalism
- The Vietnam Era – Conceptual Art, Environmental and Political Art
- Feminist Art
- The Black Arts movement
- The Regan Era – The Rise of Postmodernism
- The art market and globalisation

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 course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-style discussions. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning. There will be visits to galleries and museums and events as appropriate.

Indicative Texts:

Anne Massey & Alex Seago (eds.) *Pop Art and Design*. Bloomsbury, 2018.

Annie Cohen-Solal *et al.* *New York Mid-Century: Post-War Capital of Culture, 1945-1965*. Thames & Hudson, 2014.

Thomas Crow *The Long March of Pop: Art, Music & Design*. Yale University Press, 2014.

Katy Siegel *Since '45: America and the Making of Contemporary Art*. Reaktion Books, 2011.

Jonathan Fineberg *Art Since 1940: Strategies of Being*. Laurence King Publishing, 1995.

Marco Livingstone *Pop Art: A Continuing History*. Thames & Hudson. 1990.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	

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