

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	Art History & Visual Culture
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Introduction to Art Across Cultures
Course Code:	AVC 4200
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Throughout history and across cultures, humans have always found meaning and pleasure in translating their own natural, political and religious environment into images. This course focuses on key visual moments of this process, and explores their art-historical significance in relation to the specific societal context in which they were produced. It includes an examination of the most innovative and prolific artistic ideas non-Western and Western cultures, and explores creative exchanges across and within artistic communities. Art-historical canonical constructs, such as those of the Primitive, the Orient, and Eurocentrism are considered and debated with a view to critically respond to the structures and remains of colonialism. The course also highlights the oft-neglected influence of non-European visual cultures on the development of modern European art. Students will be encouraged to critically engage with various topics during in-class discussions and visits to London's rich offerings of museums and gallery collections.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To acquire an awareness of the different ways through which art manifested, and still manifests, itself in different parts of the world;
- To associate different artistic contexts with specific aesthetic ideals;
- To critique dominant cultural attitudes towards different visual scenarios through a range of case studies;
- To acquire a less Euro-centric, more all-encompassing approach to the study of the history of art.

Programme Outcomes:

AVC: A4(i); A4(ii); B4(ii); B4(iii), C4(i), D4(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found 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 broad understanding of theories, methods and concepts appropriate for the study of art across cultures
- Engage with a broad body of knowledge on key periods, artists and works in the history of art across cultures
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of similarities and differences in visual practices across cultures
- Demonstrate a broad ability to observe, describe and interpret visual artefacts
- Demonstrate an ability to critically respond to the structures and remains of colonialism
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 4000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Art as an expression of humanity's engagement with power, belief, nature and death;
- Aesthetics as the expression of specific cultural sets of values;
- Artistic encounters through military clashes, commercial interaction, political exchange, and so on;
- Non-Western art;
- European art;
- A range of case studies to illustrate all the points above.

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 classroom lectures and seminar classes, and through a series of closely guided site visits, with the intent of using London itself, and its environs, as the 'living' classroom. Lectures will follow the schedule detailed in the syllabus, and are structured as surveys and overviews of both accepted knowledge and current debate on each theme/topic. Short seminars will be held as feed-back opportunities in the subsequent session following each site visit, with a view to ensuring the integration of individual learning/interpretation from each site into the learning of the whole class. Seminars rely upon active student preparation, note-taking and response to each site, and will consist of student-led discussion of historical, perceptual and heritage issues arising from each site. Visits will comprise tutor mini-lectures and explanations, student independent exploration, small group and full group exploration and guided discussion.

Indicative Text(s):

Demos, T.J., *Return to the Postcolony, Specters of Colonialism in Contemporary Art*, (Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2013).

Honour, H. and J. Fleming, *A World History of Art*, 7th edition (1st ed. 1982). London, Laurence King, 2009.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. London, Penguin Books, 2003.

Smith, Terry. *Contemporary Art: World Currents*. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011.)

Journals

Grant, Catherine & Dorothy Price (eds). *Decolonizing Art History*, *Art History*, (Association for Art History: February 2020).

Southeast of Now: Directions in Contemporary and Modern Art in Asia, published by the National University of Singapore Press

World Art, Taylor Francis Online.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry
Course Code Change		
Learning Outcomes mapped to programme outcomes		
Addition of AHVC Programme Title		
Following Validation of AVC Feb 2015, course moved from 3000 to 4000 level so revised course created.		
Updated Indicative Texts	18/11/20 (Dept)	
Updated course description	18/11/20 (Dept)	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	