

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

Museum and Heritage Studies (MHST) 401 L01

Topics in Museum and Heritage Studies

“An Introduction to Contemporary Curatorial Practice”

January 6 – 10, 2020 Winter Block

9-noon and 1 – 5 (includes office hours); Art Building Room 672

Instructor: *Diana Sherlock*
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Office Hours: *By appointment*

Course Description

An examination of selected topics in Museum and Heritage Studies.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

Museum and Heritage Studies 201 or consent of the Program Coordinator.

Objectives of the Course

Introduce students to the history of curatorial practice in museums, public and commercial galleries, and in public space to understand the emergence and relevance of curatorial practice in each context. Discuss, analyze and critique various approaches and methods to contemporary curatorial practice (mainly from the late 1960s on). Examine and critique current exhibitions/collections onsite to develop critical reading skills of art in context. Gain an understanding of and demonstrate the ability to use critical strategies, methods and terms used in current contemporary curatorial practice and contemporary art. Learn basic curatorial best practices within museums and galleries.

Textbooks and Readings

Texts to be determined and introduced throughout the course and shared digitally. It is the student's responsibility to check online for assigned readings.

Assignments and Evaluation

- **Critical Article Précis from assigned readings, 1000-1500 words
25% Due January 8**

A précis is an analytical summary of an article in which the author's position and argument are clearly articulated in the student's own words.

Read the article at least three times: first to form initial impressions; second to make detailed notes mapping out the logic of the author's argument; and third to ask critical questions about the author's position, research, assumptions, examples, etc.

Finally, and specific to the context of this course, consider how the author's argument will help to inform your own interest in/understanding of curatorial practice. Quotations are not used in précis as the point of the exercise is to show that you clearly understand and can

articulate the author's argument/point of view in your own words.

- ***In-class and take-home assignments***

25% (to be introduced throughout the course and shared digitally with class).

Students will be required to attend guest lectures or field trips in the community as assigned by their instructor during the course of the term; transportation and related costs are the student's responsibility.

- ***Research Paper***

30% Due January 31 (word count 3000 – 4000 words) to be handed in the drop box outside of AB 608. Assignments that are put into the drop box will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Research topics must be directly related to an analysis of contemporary curatorial practice. For example, you might choose to analyze the impact of a particular exhibition on the history of exhibition-making, or analyze a curator's particular practice by examining some of their projects; or analyze the curatorial premise of a current local exhibition you have seen; or investigate the changing nature of the curator's role in public galleries, art fairs, biennials, or artist-run culture over a particular span of time. The instructor must approve all research paper topics in advance. Papers will develop a focused thesis in some depth, be clearly organized and demonstrate an understanding of class readings, self-selected readings, and related concepts. All papers must utilize a minimum of four scholarly sources outside the assigned class readings (i.e. not dictionaries, encyclopedias, general art history textbooks, most websites, etc.), and the *MLA Citation Guidelines* must be properly followed.

- ***Attendance and Participation***

20%

This is a seminar course; the energy and commitment of all participants determine the energy and efficacy of the class. Students should be prepared to discuss readings and to participate in the discussion generated through class presentations and other materials. Participants will be assessed not just on physical presence, nor on the amount the student contributes to the class, but on various factors such as group facilitation, constructive comments to peers, colleagues and instructors and general ability to positively contribute to this learning environment. Students should come prepared to take written notes and participate in in-class discussions.

NOTES:

It is the student's responsibility to check online for assignment and field trip updates.

All assignments to be printed and handed in at the beginning of each class.

All papers are to be typed using a 12 pt. font, double-spaced and on one side of the sheet only. They will have a title page and a citation page. Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments. *Staple or binder clips only. No folders.*

If you are submitting work in a digital format (podcast, digital video, etc.), make sure your instructor can access your media prior to submitting your work. Incompatible technology will result in late penalties.

Students do not have to achieve a passing grade on all components of each assignment of this course to pass; however, students must complete and hand in each component of every assignment or an F in the course will be assigned.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of or any relevant documentation regarding each submitted assignment.

Writing

Strong critical writing skills are a grading criterion for all assignments.

Mandatory Texts

1. Assigned Weekly Readings on University Learning System
2. Student's own research selection, minimum of four texts for final paper

Students must use the **MLA (Modern Language Association) Style Guide** for all citations, which may be accessed in the Library's Closed Reserve. A useful online resource is PURDUE Online Writing Lab:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

Strongly Recommended Texts

Texts to assist students with writing about art may be purchased or are online:

Barnet, Sylvan. *A Short Guide To Writing About Art*. Third Edition. Glenview, Illinois, Boston and London: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1989.

Finnbogason, Jack and Al Valleau. *A Canadian Writer's Guide*. Second Edition. Ontario: Nelson Thomson Learning, 2002.

Williams, Gilda. *How to Write About Contemporary Art*. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2014.

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO

Late Assignment Policy

Unless otherwise specified, assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. Assignments late without a documented valid reason and without consultation with the instructor are penalized one letter grade (from, for example, A to A- to B+) or 5% for every day late past the due date for up to two weeks, after which time the assignment will not be accepted and the student will receive an F in the course.

Additional Information

Students may be required to attend guest lectures or field trips in the community as assigned by their instructor during the course of the term; transportation and related costs are the student's responsibility.

Course Activities

January 6 — Instructor lecture and class discussions.

January 7 — Instructor lecture and Glenbow field trip. In-class assignment due 5%.

January 8 — Instructor lecture, group work and guest speaker. Article Precis Due 25%.

January 9 — Instructor lecture and field trip. Take-home assignment due 10%

January 10 — Instructor lecture and final in-class assignments/presentations due 10%.

January 31 — Final Research Paper due 30%.

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

| Percentage | Grade | G.P.V. | Grade Definition |
|------------|-------|--------|--|
| 96-100 | A+ | 4.0 | Outstanding |
| 90-95 | A | 4.0 | Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter. |
| 85-89 | A- | 3.7 | |
| 80-84 | B+ | 3.3 | |

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|-------|----|-----|--|
| 75-79 | B | 3.0 | Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally |
| 70-74 | B- | 2.7 | |
| 65-69 | C+ | 2.3 | |
| 60-64 | C | 2.0 | Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject |
| 55-59 | C- | 1.7 | |
| 53-54 | D+ | 1.3 | |
| 50-52 | D | 1.0 | Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject |
| 0-49 | F | 0 | Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements. |

Studio Procedures

The creation of art can be a dirty process and a studio is only workable if everyone cooperates in keeping it clean. Out of respect and consideration for your classmates and other users of the space, it is expected that everyone will participate in keeping the studio clean and tidy.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Students are welcome to use computers in class for learning requirements only. Phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class time. No photography, audio or video recording allowed. Use of any electronic device during exams is strictly prohibited and will result in failure of the class. Unless otherwise noted, these rules apply during field trips as well as in the classroom.

Email Protocol: The Instructor will not teach over email, so substantive content should be addressed in person at a meeting or during class time. Students are welcome to contact their Instructor via email to make an appointment to discuss class content. The Instructor checks daily and will make every effort to respond to the student's request as soon as possible.

Academic Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Academic Standing

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

Deferral of Exams/Term work

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information about deferring a final exam go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

For more information about deferral of term work go to
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15.pdf

F.O.I.P.

For more information go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

Writing/Plagiarism

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

For more information go to
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>
or
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. Visual art projects submitted for course credit must be produced by the student specifically for this class. Students must not submit projects if credit has or will be provided for it in another class. This includes re-worked assignments from previous or concurrent courses, unless permission is provided in writing by the instructor. Additionally, the student is asked to be mindful of using visual sources from the internet, ensuring that that material is not derived from any on-line or other available source, and that appropriate copyright permission is granted, when required.

Instructor Intellectual Property and Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.).

Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Lockers

The Art Building lockers are administered through the Student's Union's used bookstore, Bound and Copied. Lockers are rented on a first come, first served basis. Due to the shortage of lockers, and the high demand, students cannot hold more than one locker at a time. All of the details on renting a locker and your responsibilities can be found on the Locker Rental Agreement at

https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/locker_rental_agreement_2010.pdf

Lockers for all sessions can be rented through my.ucalgary.ca. Once you're in the Student Centre, click on **Other Academic Services** and choose **Locker Reservation**.

Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Models

In this class students may be expected to draw from nude models. **A student electing not to do so must notify the instructors IN WRITING of his/her concerns.**

Portfolios and Assignments

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

Note - All unclaimed work will be disposed of.

Note - Studio spaces, bulletin boards and display areas need to be cleared 2 weeks after the last day of classes.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-5.html>

or

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/chreb>

Campus Mental Health Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#) and the [Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)

Campus Security/Safewalk

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Emergency Evacuation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Student Misconduct

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Student Ombudsman

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Student Union

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Stop by SS102, call us at 220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca.

You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

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