

## ARH 150 – Modern and Contemporary

**Thomas Stubblefield, PhD**

Email: [tstubblefield@umassd.edu](mailto:tstubblefield@umassd.edu)

Office: CVPA - 313, Phone: 508-910-6571

**Catalog Course Description:** This class is designed to give the student a familiarity with the major artists and movements of the history of art from the Modern and Contemporary periods. Along the way, students will gain an appreciation of the aesthetic values behind the art of Western cultures as well as an understanding of the historical, sociopolitical and religious context in which this work was produced. In addition, the course will introduce some of the fundamental concepts of the discipline of art history and looking at art in general.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Identify the works of major artists from the Modern and Contemporary periods as the major stylistic elements of these periods.
- Make specific connections between the form and content of works of art and their larger social and political context.
- Discuss the specific properties of various media (oil painting, photography, film, video, installation).
- Analyze the formal elements of a work of art using the proper vocabulary of the discipline.
- Discuss the different viewing contexts and perceptions of the audience of works of art across time.
- Form and express interpretations and/or analysis of works of art in written form.

This course fulfills **Cluster 3B** of the University Studies Curriculum. The learning outcomes for this cluster are:

- Articulate the cultural context, history and formal and conceptual aspects of the art form studied.
- Interpret and create informed responses (via writing, presentation, performance or artifact) to the art form studied through the analysis of the form, content, context and methods of production using appropriate disciplinary terminology.
- Explain the ways in which the art form expresses the values that humans attach to their experiences.

**Textbook:** H.H. Arnason and Elizabeth C. Mansfield. History of Modern Art (7th Revised Edition), 2013. This text is available at the campus bookstore. More information about the bookstore can be found at <http://www.umassd.edu/campusstore/>.

**Format of the Course:** This course consists of 10 units or "modules" which are organized by art movements and/or concepts. While the course is self-paced, each module has a due date associated with it (see schedule below). In each module, you will find an "Introduction" which contains important background info and relevant key terms that complement the reading for that topic (see schedule for reading list). You will also find a discussion board in each module. Here you will post a response to a question related to that module's material *and* respond to another student's posting (see section below for more on discussion boards). Since there are 11 discussion boards, you are allowed to "sit out" one board without penalty. Extra credit will not be offered for completing all 11 discussions.

### **Final Grade Assessment:**

Discussion Board Posts (10 x 5 pts each) = 50%  
Essay - 15%  
Ism's Project – 10%  
Review of Another Student's Isms Project – 5%  
Final Exam – 20 %

**Exams** – The exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions.

**Discussion Board Assignments:** Each student will be required to complete 9 discussion board posts plus an introduction to the class in week 1 (10 total). Since there are 11 available discussion boards, this means that you can sit out of 1 discussion board of your choice and still receive full credit.

For these assignments you will respond to a question found on the discussion board. In order to receive full credit, your answers must be at least 200 words in length, well-crafted and thoughtful. You will also be required to respond to one other student's post for each discussion board. Each post must be made by **midnight** of the due date listed or it will not be accepted.

**Ism's Project** – For this project you will create a painting, photograph, print, digital design, assemblage or other object that embodies the general ideas or principles of one of the "-isms" we have discussed in that unit. You will not be graded on your technical skill, but rather how well the object embodies the larger ideas of the movement you have chosen. You will upload a digital image of the work you produce as well as a short essay of 300 words which explains how this work conforms to the general principles of whatever ism the group has chosen to emulate. The essay portion of the assignment is the place where you will convey to the class how the object embodies they movement and to that extent is the most important aspect of the project.

**Review of Another Student's Isms Project** – After you have posted your Ism's project you will then play the role of the art critic. Choose of your fellow student's project and write a review of it. Your review should be 200 words in length and integrate the material you have learned about the movement in question. Compare the piece to other works, make connections to larger cultural contexts and consider the intention of the artist. The original creator of the piece must also respond to the review (or another post if there work is not reviewed).

**Essay** – Each student will be required to write a short paper for the course. Your paper should be 3 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font with 1” margins on all sides. You will write on a single work of art by an artist who participated in one of the movements or "-ism's" discussed in the course. While I would suggest choosing an artist that is in your book, you must choose a work that is not in your book. The paper should have two components. First, you will briefly discuss the various ways in which the work relates the general stylistic traits of the movement from which it comes. Second, you will compare it to a work of art from that style or movement in order to reinforce your claim. I would suggest isolating two or three attributes from each of these works in order to create a convincing argument. Please include these images at the conclusion of your paper (these images do not count toward the required length of the essay).

### **Course Policies:**

*Makeup Exams:* There will be no makeup exams in this course. You must take the final by the allotted date or you will receive a zero on the assignment.

*Participation:* You are expected to not only have completed the reading (and writing) assignments for each module, but to contribute your ideas to class discussions and group activities. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this class.

*Reading Assignments:* Reading assignments should be completed before you post on the discussion board. I highly recommend taking notes on your readings so that you can review them in the process of writing your response to the question posed for that particular discussion board.

*Academic Integrity:* The University has an Academic Integrity Policy that specifies our institutional expectations for honesty and integrity in the learning environment. The policy explains what counts as violations of academic integrity and the penalties associated with those violations. Please consult the policy at the following link:  
<http://www.umassd.edu/studenthandbook/academicregs/ethicalstandards.cfm>

*Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas or thoughts of another person, and the representation of them as one’s original work. The written work you turn in must be yours and yours alone. It must not be written by someone else, or contain passages quoted or paraphrased from another’s work without proper citation. Plagiarism is a very serious offence. For a full explanation of plagiarism visit:  
[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_plagiar.html)

*Incomplete Policy:* According to the university catalogue, an incomplete may be given only in exceptional circumstances at the instructor's discretion. The student must be passing at the time of the request or be sufficiently close to passing. If the work is not completed within one year of the recording of the incomplete grade, the grade will become an F (I). The incomplete policy for this course is that at least 70% of the course must be already completed and an exceptional circumstance (i.e. medical issue) must exist. If you feel you require an incomplete for an

exceptional reason, you need to email me and state your reasons for the incomplete in writing. We will then decide on a course of action.

*Late Papers:* All papers will be docked a half letter grade per day. This means that you should upload the file to me ASAP. If I am sent a corrupt file or a file that will not open for any reason, the student is expected to send a working file within 24 hours or be docked accordingly. I will not accept an assignment that is more than two days late.

*Disabled Students:* In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please meet with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and provide the appropriate paperwork from the Center for Access and Success. The necessary paperwork is obtained when you bring proper documentation to the Center, which is located in Liberal Arts, Room 016; phone: 508.999.8711.

### **Academic Support Services:**

- The *Academic Advising Center* provides academic advising, primarily for Liberal Arts Undeclared Majors (LAUs). In addition, forms listing degree, major/minor, and General Education (GenEd) requirements are available here, as are advisors working with the study abroad program.
- *The Academic Resource Center*, located on the ground floor of Group I, Room 005, x8709 or 508-999-8709, offers one-on-one and small group tutoring, study groups, helpful handouts and more. If you need additional help, please visit the Writing & Reading Center, located in Group I, Room 220A, x8710 or 508-999-8710.
- *College Now* is a special admissions and support program for low-income and/or first-generation college students, located in Group I, Room 005. Call x8703 or 508-999-8703.
- *The Counseling Center* addresses a variety of academic and educational needs, in addition to providing counseling/psychotherapy services. The Center provides assistance with academic motivation, Attention Deficit Disorder, goal setting, test anxiety and time management skills. Call x8650 or 508-999-8650.
- The *Frederick Douglass Unity House* was created in response to the increasing diversity of our students at UMass Dartmouth. Unity House provides a "supportive environment for the academic, cultural, recreational and social pursuits of the UMass Dartmouth students of color." Email: [unityhouse@umassd.edu](mailto:unityhouse@umassd.edu).
- The *Pride Alliance* supports students, faculty, and staff of all sexualities. Campus Center Room 208 (near CAB office) Phone: 508-999-8163. email: [pridealliance@umassd.edu](mailto:pridealliance@umassd.edu).

- *Disabled Student Services*, a support organization helping students who are disabled to pursue their educational goals. Located on the ground floor of Group I, Room 016. Call x8711 or 508-999-8711.

### **Schedule:**

**Note:** Although the course is self-paced, there are due dates. Failing to complete discussion board by the allotted time will result in a zero for the assignment. There are no exceptions. For each module you will have to post a response to the question on the discussion board and respond to one other student posts.

#### **Due Tuesday Week 1:**

01. Origins of Modern Art\*  
*Reading: 1-13.*

*\*Note: Don't forget that in addition to the writing prompt on the Whistler court case, you must also post an introduction to the class in Module 1.*

#### **Due Thursday Week 1:**

02. Impressionism  
*Reading: 14-41.*

#### **Due Tuesday Week 2:**

03. Post-Impressionism  
*Reading: Reading: 42-69.*

#### **Due Thursday Week 2:**

04. German Expressionism  
*Reading: 111-135.*

#### **Due Tuesday Week 3:**

05. Cubism  
*Reading: 136-168.*

**Due Thursday Week 3:**

06. Dada  
*Reading: 213-241.*

**Due Tuesday Week 4:**

07. Surrealism  
*Reading: 297-337.*

**Due Thursday Week 4:**

08. Abstract Expressionism  
*Reading: 377-410.*

**Due Tuesday Week 5:**

09. Pop Art  
*Reading: 456-489.*

**Due Thursday Week 5:**

Ism's Project Due

**Due Tuesday, Week 6:**

Review of one of the Ism's Projects of Your Peers Due

**Due Thursday Week 6:**

10. Contemporary Global Art and Postmodernism  
*Reading: 629-665, 729-760.*

**Other Important Dates:**

\*The essay must be uploaded by **Wednesday, Week 7** at midnight (no late papers will be accepted as this is the last day of the course).

\*The final exam must be completed by **Wednesday, Week 7** at midnight (no makeups).