

ADM Fall 2020

HL4041 Studies in Art Criticism and Culture

Thursday, 2.30pm-5.30pm, LHN-TR+36

Asst Prof Michelle Lim

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Office: ART 4-6 (office hours by appointment)

TA: Sue Lee (soojin001@e.ntu.edu.sg)

Course Description

This course will provide a historical survey of art criticism's development and introduce different critical approaches to writing about art and culture. The course focuses on (1) historical origins and modern development of art criticism (2) concepts, theories and philosophies underpinning major schools/bodies of thought in art criticism (3) the relationship between text and works of art/film/architecture (4) developing an approach to critical thinking and writing about art and culture. A selection of texts from a wide cultural range will be considered, in relation to key works from different times and cultures.

Course Requirements

Class Participation 10%

Continuous Written Assignments 20%

Presentations 40%

Final Assignment (group + individual components) 30%

Notes:

1. Please note venue carefully as this is a hybrid class, i.e. mix of online and in-class sessions.

Arrangements may change due to the evolving situation.

2. Face masks are required for all in-person classes and consultations.

CLASS SCHEDULE*

* Readings subject to change.

Week 1 (13/8)	Introduction (in-person)
Vasari, Giorgio	<i>The Lives of the Artists</i> (16 th century) - extract
Week 2 (20/8)	Modern Art Criticism (in-person)
Baudelaire, Charles	<i>Painter of Modern Life</i> (1863)
Greenberg, Clement	<i>Towards a Newer Laocoon</i> (1940)
Week 3 (27/8)	Frankfurt School/Post War (online)
Benjamin, Walter	<i>The Work of Art in the Age of Its Mechanical Reproduction</i> (1935)
<u>Self-excursion to National Gallery Singapore, Merlion Park and vicinity*</u>	
Week 4 (3/9)	Art and Site (online)
	Object field study*
Krauss, Rosalind	<i>Sculpture in an Expanded Field</i> (1979)
Kwon, Miwon	<i>One Place after Another</i> (1997)
Week 5 (10/9)	Photography (in-person)
Barthes, Roland	<i>Camera Lucida</i> (1980) – extract
Sontag, Susan	<i>On Photography</i> (1977)
<u>*Excursion report due</u>	
Week 6 (17/9)	Translation and Reviews (online)
Barthes, Roland	<i>Travels in China</i> (2012; in French, 2009) + selected reviews
Week 7 (24/9)	Art in Local Context (online)
	Virtual field trip to NUS Museum ⁺
Sabapathy, T.K.	<i>Road to Nowhere</i> (2010)
<u>+ Museum visit notes due by end of day 24/9</u>	
Week 8 (1/10)	no class (recess week)

Week 9 (8/10) Film Screening (in ADM) + Individual Consultations (in-person, by appt)

Nostalgia (1983, film) screening

Week 10 (15/10) Film + Group consultations (online)

Tarkovsky, Andrei *Sculpting in Time (1985) - extract*

Week 11 (22/10) Contemporary Culture (online)

Okwui Enwezor: Thinking and Writing

- <https://www.labiennale.org/en/art/2015/intervento-di-okwui-enwezor>
- <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/interview/okwui-enwezor-on-making-sense-of-a-global-landscape-that-again-lies-shattered-and-in-disarray> (2019)

Week 12 (29/10) Final Assignment/Research Topic Presentations (in-person, tbc)

Week 13 (5/11) Politics and Ethics (online)

Didion, Joan *Sentimental Journeys (1993)*

Week 14 (12/11) Criticism in Practice (online, tbc)

Guest speakers: Art Plural founders Usha Chandradas and Pauline Gan

Final Assignment due by noon, 12 November 2020.

No exceptions unless with prior permission or medical reason.