

HL4041 Studies in Art Criticism and Culture

Course Description

This course will introduce different critical approaches to writing about art and culture. We shall explore the relationship between text and works of art and 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.

Assessment

Class Participation 20%

Exhibition Reflection 10%

Presentations 20%

Final Essay 50%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: What is art criticism?

“I had fallen in love and I had no language”: Winterson, Jeanette. “Art Objects.” *Art Objects: Essays on Ecstasy and Effrontery*. Vintage, 2013.

Week 2: Do words drain artworks of their visceral force?

“[Growing] towards books and away from fresh encounters...”: Elkins, James. *Pictures and Tears: A History of People Who Have Cried in Front of Paintings*. Routledge, 2004.

Week 3: Can artworks ever be adequately described in words?

Carson, Anne. "Variations on the Right to Remain Silent." *A Public Space*, Issue 7, 2008, <https://apublicspace.org/>.

Week 4: Writings by Artists

Ufan, Lee. *The Art of Encounter*. Lisson Gallery, 2008.

Week 5: Genre-defying, experimental criticism

Nelson, Maggie. *Bluets*. Jonathan Cape, 2017.

Week 6: Memoir and criticism

Laing, Olivia. *The Lonely City*. Picador, 2016.

Week 7 Art Criticism in Fiction

Berger, John. *And Our Faces, My Heart, Brief as Photos*. Vintage International, 1991.

Week 8 The Studio Visit

Genet, Jean. "The Studio of Alberto Giacometti". *The Selected Writings of Jean Genet*, edited by Edmund White, Ecco Press, 1993, 309-329.

Week 9 Reading Artworks

Cixous, Hélène. "Bathsheba or the Interior Bible." *Stigmata: Escaping Texts*. Routledge, 2005, 3-24.

Week 10 Beyond Consumption and Spectacle

Han, Byung-Chul. *Saving Beauty*. Polity, 2017.

Week 11 Exhibition visit TBA

Week 12 Student presentations on essay topics

Week 13 Student presentations continued

Conclusion