

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Art History and Visual Culture

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: Introduction to Art Across Cultures

Course Code: AVC 4200

Course Leader: Dr Nicola Mann

Student Engagement Hours: 120

Lectures: 22.5

Classroom discussion/ Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: Fall and Spring

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 of Western and non-Western cultures, and explores creative exchanges across and within artistic communities. Art-historical constructs, such as those of Tradition, the Primitive and the Orient, as well as the influences of non-European visual cultures on the development of modern European art are considered. 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 :

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 the Academic Registry and found at:
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/programme-and-course-specifications/http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/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 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;
- Modern European art and non-Western art;
- A range of case studies to illustrate all the points above.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Learning and Teaching Policy Committee found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ALL-ASSESSMENT-NORMS-CATEGORIES-with-descriptions-Jan-2014.pdf>

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.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

IndicativeText(s):

Gombrich, E. H., *The Preference for the Primitive. Episodes in the History of Western Taste and Art*. London and New York, Phaidon Press, 2006.

Gordon, S., *Cairo to Constantinople: Francis Bedford's Photographs of the Middle East*. Exhibition catalogue, Queen's Gallery, London, 2014.

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

Njami, Simon et al. *Africa Remix*. Exhibition catalogue, London, Hayward Gallery, 2005.

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

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Course Code Change		
Major	Learning Outcomes mapped to programme outcomes		
Minor	Addition of AHVC Programme Title		
Major	Following Validation of AVC Feb 2015, course moved from 3000 to 4000 level so revised course created.		