

**ART 2000: Encounters with Contemporary Art**

**meeting times: M/W, 12:45-2:05 Hopkins Hall 250**

**professor: Roger Beebe**

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**office hours M/W 2:15-3:45, Hopkins Hall 380B (or by request)**

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course is not a survey of contemporary art; instead, it is an idiosyncratic introduction to a number of issues and strategies employed by various artists working in several different mediums/disciplines/traditions. We will begin by interrogating what we mean by “contemporary” (and even what we mean by “art”) before moving through a series of modules designed to introduce specific thematic, strategic, practical, and ideological issues.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Reading assignments are the foundation for our discussions, and without reading them, our conversations will seem incredibly boring. Do the readings. And do them without distraction (so put away the computer, turn the TV off, etc.). The page count each week is intentionally very limited to allow you to spend the time you need to really understand these articles, even if it takes more than one pass. To ensure that you’re doing the reading, we will have regular short reading quizzes at the start class. These will count for 1/5 of your grade, so you’ll want to take them seriously. If you arrive late and miss the quiz, you’ll get a zero, so this is also how I plan to penalize you for tardiness.

I plan on adding short additional readings as the semester goes on and your interests and blind spots become clearer to me, so be sure to listen in class for them to be announced and check the syllabus online regularly to confirm each week’s readings.

**GRADING:**

Mid-term exam: 35%

Final exam: 35%

Reading quizzes: 20%

Participation: 10%

Grades will be based on the following grading scale:

A: 93-100

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 83-86

B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79

C: 73-76

C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69

D: 60-66

E: 0-59

**ATTENDANCE:**

This class is not an art history survey where you can get by just reading a textbook and memorizing names and dates. Much of the “heavy lifting” of the class will be done during the lecture and discussion. Therefore, attendance is absolutely critical for a meaningful experience of the class.

Excused absences do not exist. All absences are unexcused, so don't bother bringing me doctor's notes or other excuses. Each student gets three absences, which is already a lot—fully 10% of our class. Beyond three absences, each missed class lowers your final grade by ½ letter grade (an A becomes an A-, an A- becomes a B+, etc.). This is an easy way to ruin your grade. Don't put yourself in that position. (One important thing to remember: you will get likely sick at some point & will not want to (and should not) come to class, so don't burn through all of your absences for other reasons early in the semester.)

**PARTICIPATION:**

While this is a big class and it will be driven by lecture, I still believe that getting you to articulate your thoughts about the contemporary art and artists we will be discussing will be very important. To encourage you to learn to do that, I will be giving you a grade based on your participation. Each of you will begin with a B- for participation. If I see you falling asleep in class, your participation will go down from there. Each time you make a contribution to our discussion, your grade will go up. You don't necessarily need to speak each class period, but that might not be a bad goal to set. (For those who love to participate and who might be tempted to contribute much more frequently than that, keep in mind that this is a very big class, and try to speak out only when you've got something important to offer.) Even asking questions counts as participation—I just want to see you engaged and trying to think through the issues that the course is designed to explore.

**CELL PHONE USE:**

If I see you checking your cell phone, I'll give you an absence for that day. If you do it repeatedly, I'll shame you in front of the class by asking you to leave. If you have some extraordinary circumstance that requires that you check your cell phone—if you're waiting to get news about whether you'll need to donate a kidney to save your brother's life or something—then approach me before the class begins to let me know. Otherwise, it's basically a zero-tolerance policy on cell phones.

**LAPTOP USE:**

While I fantasize that laptops could make a positive contribution to the class, in practice, they're much more likely to be a source of distraction. Even for those who want to use them to do research related to the topic at hand can only do so by partially disengaging from our discussion. (Multitasking is, it turns out, a total myth, according to a recent Stanford study.) So I'm going to insist that no laptops be used in class. If there's some reason you can't abide this policy, come talk to me.

**BOILERPLATE:****Academic Misconduct:**

Students are reminded that academic misconduct is a violation of the code of Student Conduct and, per faculty rule 3335-31-02, must be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. The University defines academic misconduct as any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the educational process. (The University rules on academic misconduct can be found on the web at <http://acs.ohio-state.edu/offices/oaa/procedures/1.0.html>)

**Students with Disabilities:**

Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me to discuss your specific needs. I rely on the Office of Disability Services to verify the need for accommodation and to help develop accommodation strategies. Students with disabilities who have not previously contacted the Office of Disability Services are encouraged to do so, by looking at their website (<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>) and calling them for an appointment.