

ARH 350: Contemporary Art & Theory

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Course Description

In this course, we will be investigating Contemporary Art. We will look into how artists and critics discuss, categorize, celebrate, criticize and engage in Contemporary Art. Students will become familiar with some of the major figures, works, movements, theories and tendencies in recent art from 1980's onwards.

Goals and Objectives

1. Identify and analyze the formal elements in a work of art.
2. Discriminate between interpreting and judging a work of art.
3. Apply a cross section of aesthetic theories to a selection of contemporary art works.
4. Compare/contrast the formal qualities and visual theories of different contemporary art works.
5. Reflect on the nature of contemporary art and art criticism in both written and visual formats.

Textbook

- Foster, Hal, Rosalind Kraus, Yve-alain Bois, Benjamin Buchloh and David Joselit. Art Since 1900: 1945-Present. Thames and Hudson, New York: NY,
- Robertson, Jean and Craig McDaniel, Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art After 1980, 3rd Edition. Oxford Univeristy Press, New York: NY, 2013

Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on:

• Exams (4)	40%
• Final Exam	15%
• Participation	20%
• Leading discussion	5%
• Presentation	5%
• <u>Paper</u>	15%
• Total	100%

Participation

Students are expected to regularly engage in class discussions. We will have 20 class periods devoted to discussion. Students will earn a ½ point for showing up prepared for class and making a singular contribution to the discussion, and a full point if they contribute more than one comment and/or offer a particularly insightful perspective. Students will not be given any points if they are absent, present but unprepared, or do not contribute to the conversation.

Exams

There will be four exams and a final. All exams will follow a similar format consisting of a take-home essay portion and an in-class slide identification component. Students will be given the essay questions ahead of time and will be given at least 48 hours to prepare and write their response. They may refer to the readings and use their notes to prepare their responses, but may not converse with other classmates concerning the questions nor may they consult additional outside resources (such as the internet, articles, or journals). The take home portion is due on the day of the exam. The slide identification occurs on the scheduled day of the exam.

Student Led Discussion:

Students will be expected to lead a class discussion on one of the readings over the course of the semester. Dates and readings will be assigned. Specific criteria will be provided but students should expect to lead a 25-minute discussion analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating their particular reading. Supplemental materials (such as a slide show of related works/samples) may be included but are not required.

Paper and Presentation:

Students will be expected to write a ten-page paper on a particular contemporary artist chosen from an instructor-provided list. They will also give a ten-minute presentation to the class on their artist. The paper and presentation should address that artist's larger body of work, investigate two or three specific pieces, and should provide a cogent argument as to how their work intersects with, is informed by, or somehow supports visually the theories explored in class over the semester. Specific criteria will be provided.

Due Dates and Late Submission Policy:

Unless otherwise noted, all work is to be turned in for grading at the start of class on the day it is due. I will not accept work that is turned in late.

Believing that my high expectations reflect my respect for you and for your capacity to work at a level of excellence, I will follow the grading standards outlined in the college catalog:

- Grade A is reserved for work that is exceptional in quality and shows keen insight, understanding, and initiative.
- Grade B is given for work that is consistently superior, shows interest, effort, or originality.
- Grade C is a respectable grade. It reflects consistent daily preparation and satisfactory completion of all work required.
- Grade D- is the lowest passing grade. It is below the average necessary to meet graduation requirements and is not accepted for transfer by other institutions.
- Grade F is failing.

Attendance Policy

You are allowed three absences. Each additional absence over the specified limits will result in your final grade being dropped 2/3 of a letter. Therefore, if you have a B in the class and have missed two classes, your final grade for the course would drop to a C+. **Six or more class absences will result in automatically failing the course.**

Excused absences are defined as:

- Representing Rollins College formally on an athletic team or an approved academic forum.
- Extreme health emergency that requires hospitalization or medical intervention. A cold that results in a doctor's visit does not constitute an "extreme health emergency." In the case of a medical emergency, the student must provide written medical documentation.
- Extreme family emergency. For example, a death in the immediate family. Roommate problems, legal proceedings, arrests, are NOT considered "family emergencies."
 - A parent or legal guardian must document any family emergency.
- The student must notify the professor of any emergency in a timely fashion (by e-mail, phone, or in person). If notification is sent by e-mail, the professor will respond acknowledging the message. If no response is given, the e-mail is considered not received. Once the professor has been notified, all written documentation must be submitted in person within one week of the absence.
- The professor is the final arbiter of whether or not to consider an absence "excused" based on the circumstances and documentation on a case-by-case basis.
- Traveling home early for holidays **IS NOT** an excused absence.

Tardy Policy:

Late arrivals and/or early departures from class are disruptive to the class activity. Therefore, students that arrive five minutes or more after the class has started and/or depart five or more minutes before the end of class will be considered tardy. Each student will receive one free tardy. After that, each tardy counts as half an absence.

Academic Honor Code Reaffirmation:

<http://www.rollins.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/documents/academic-honorcode-rollins-college.pdf> Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. The student commitment to uphold the values of honor - honesty, trust, respect, fairness, and responsibility - particularly manifests itself in two public aspects of student life. First, as part of the admission process to the College, students agree to commit themselves to the Honor Code. Then, as part of the matriculation process during Orientation, students sign a more detailed pledge to uphold the Honor Code and to conduct themselves honorably in all their activities, both academic and social, as a Rollins student. A student signature on the following pledge is a binding commitment by the student that lasts for his or her entire tenure at Rollins College. The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others. This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to the paper, quiz, test, lab report, etc., the handwritten signed statement: "On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work." Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

Credit Hour Statement Policy AC 2000: adopted 4/7/16:

Rollins College offers four-credit-hour courses that provide three (50-minute) hours of direct or indirect instructional contact. The value of four credit hours reflects the substantial individual attention each student receives from instructors as well as additional out-of-class activities. Faculty require that students undertake at least 7.5 (60-minute) hours of outside work per week,

averaged over the course's duration and equaling two and one-half (2.5) 60-minute hours of outside work for every one (50 minute) hour of scheduled class time. In this course, the additional outside-of class expectations are studio lab time, field trips, and scheduled events.

Disability Services:

Rollins College is committed to equal access and inclusion for all students, faculty and staff. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 create a foundation of legal obligations to provide an accessible educational environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. It is the spirit of these laws which guides the college toward expanding access in all courses and programs, utilizing innovative instructional design, and identifying and removing barriers whenever possible. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to fully participate in your classes, please contact the Disability Services Office, located in the Mills Memorial Building, Room 217, as soon as possible. You are encouraged to schedule a Welcome Meeting by filling out the "First Time Users" form on the website: <http://www.rollins.edu/disabilityservices/> and/or reach out by phone or email: 407-975- 6463 or Access@Rollins.edu. All test-taking accommodations requested for this course must first be approved through the Disability Services Office (DSO) and scheduled online through Accommodate at least 72 hours before the exam. Official accommodation letters must be received by and discussed with the faculty in advance. There will be no exceptions given unless previously approved by the DSO with documentation of the emergency situation. We highly recommend making all testing accommodations at the beginning of the semester. DSO staff are available to assist with this process.

Title IX Statement (updated 7/12/16):

Rollins College is committed to making its campus a safe place for students. If you tell any of your faculty about sexual misconduct involving members of the campus community, your professors are required to report this information to the Title IX Coordinator. Your faculty member can help connect you with the Coordinator, Oriana Jiménez (TitleIX@rollins.edu or 407-691-1773). She will provide you with information, resources and support. If you would prefer to speak to someone on campus confidentially, please call the Wellness Center at 407-628-6340. They are not required to report any information you share with the Office of Title IX. Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence (such as dating or domestic abuse), sexual assault, and any discrimination based on your sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation that creates a hostile environment. For information, visit <http://www.rollins.edu/titleix/>