

2360
ART-2340

SYLLABUS: CURATORIAL STUDIES

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Curator comes from the Latin word curatus which means “guardian” or “overseer”.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As contemporary art practice evolves, the role and definition of a curator has changed significantly. Ideas on the relationship between art, exhibition space, and audience are changing, and even the way that art institutions are structured is becoming more complex. This course examines what it means to be a “curator” and the topics that are influencing current curatorial strategies. Emphasis will be placed on the study of active professionals referencing local, national and international exhibitions. Field trips to arts institutions will encourage developing links with gallery and museums curators ;managers and directors; writers and critics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students learn theoretical and practical considerations current in the display and reception of emerging contemporary art.

- Students learn to evaluate alternative processes and approaches to curating as an artistic, social and critical activity.

- Students learn curatorial concepts and practices and become aware of the literature

- Students develop skills in research, exhibition organization

- Students learn the challenges of specific exhibition locations and situations through direct professional experience of by developing and presenting an exhibition in a local gallery.

- Students learn the impact of artist-led initiatives and explore the developments of curating beyond the gallery.

- Students learn strategies for independent thinking and group collaboration and project management.

Course Requirements:

30%	Active participation in all class discussions and field trips
30%	Successful completion of projects
20%	Writing assignments
20%	Final Project

Grading Scale:

A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 88-89, B 83-87, B- 80-82, C+ 78-79, C 73-77, C- 70-72, D+ 68-69, D 63-67, D- 60-62, F 59 and below. Nothing turned in = 0.

A Superior work all around. Exceeds requirements for assignments, shows independent resourcefulness, demonstrates high levels of critical thinking and creative ability, assumes leadership role and is positive benefit to class in general, fully engaged and open to critique, marked individual development.

B Good, solid, above-average work. Meets all requirements for assignments, shows reasonable initiative and engagement, shows some independent thinking with regard to critical and creative skills, positive contribution to class, discernable individual development with good response to critique.

C Average performance overall. Barely meets requirements and needs constant instruction to do so, marginal initiative and engagement with materials, some evidence of individual development but at a very ordinary level.

D Below average. Not meeting requirements for class in general at most levels, definite lack of initiative without any noticeable personal development or desire to do so, detriment to class activities and collaborative environment.

F Failing. Work, attitude, and development are unacceptable at every level.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. If you are absent more than two times, your final letter grade will fall 1/2 letter grade for each unexcused absence. For instance, even with a cumulative grade of A, a student with four unexcused absences will receive a C grade.

Punctuality is also extremely important, as we will cover a lot of material at the beginning of the class meeting. Three lates will equal one absence. If you come in late, it is your responsibility to make sure that your attendance is noted or you may be counted as absent. You are responsible for making up work missed due to absences or tardiness. Explanations are not necessarily excuses.

List two names, phone numbers, and emails of people in this class that you can get the information from, if you miss class.

COURSE TIMELINE

WEEK 1

READING/DISCUSSION:

“Institutional Critique: The Curatorialization of Institutional Critique” by Jens Hoffman

“At Such a Late Date...” Lauri Firstenberg

WEEK 2

READING/DISCUSSION: “The Producers: Frances Morris and Charles Esche”

READING ASSIGNMENT: “The Producers: Clive Phillipot and Matthew Higgs”

FIELD TRIP: tba

PROJECT: continue concept/research for a proposed exhibition

ASSIGNMENT: Write a review of a current exhibition – 500 words

WEEK 3

READING/DISCUSSION: “The Producers: Clive Phillipot and Matthew Higgs”

READING ASSIGNMENT: Collecting Contemporary: Curators – Adam Lindeman

PROJECT: Concept/research for a proposed exhibition

Writing assignment due

WEEK 4

READING/DISCUSSION: Collecting Contemporary: Curators – Adam Lindeman

FIELD TRIP: tba

PROJECT: continue concept/research

ASSIGNMENT: Write a review of a current exhibition – 500 words

WEEK 5

READING/DISCUSSION: TBA

GUEST SPEAKER: tba

PROJECT: continue concept/research

Writing assignment due

WEEK 6

READING/DISCUSSION: TBA

FIELD TRIP: tba

PROJECT: continue concept/research



WEEK 7

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

PROJECT: continue concept/research

WEEK 8

FINAL: Paper on chosen curator due

