

Colorado State University - Pueblo
College of Humanities and Social Sciences // Department of Art
Spring Term 2012 // Visual Dynamics // ART100
MWF, 11-11:50am, Room AM-120

Instructor: Ellen Mueller

Office AM-102A

Hours Mon/Tue 3-4pm, and by appointment

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Course Site: <https://teaching.ellenmueller.com/intro-to-art/syllabus/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to expand your knowledge and appreciation of art and visual culture. I aim to show you some ways to view art/visual culture more deeply, to come up with more interesting insights on how pieces of art/visual culture work, to have informed, intelligent reasons for liking or disliking a piece of art/visual culture, and to write – clearly, persuasively, and interestingly – about stuff you’ve viewed. We’ll use the basic analytic categories of formal elements, biography, feminism, marxism, and iconography. We will read, write, and create a few simple art projects. We’ll discuss the relationships between artists and society, the impact of art/visual culture, and how art develops over time and space. Additionally, we’ll go over the basic forms, contexts, techniques and materials in/with which artists work.

INTENDED STUDENT COMPETENCIES & OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Explore art/visual culture for communication and meaning.
2. Develop and use a visual vocabulary including the elements and principles of design.
3. Develop a process of art appreciation and critique.
4. Understand and discuss art/visual culture, formally and contextually (culturally, socially and historically).
5. Recognize art forms and styles.
6. Demonstrate some art techniques to understand and appreciate creative processes.

By the end of the semester, each member of this class should have the vocabulary, sensibility and historical context to engage with the visual and conceptual aspects of culturally based products – be it painting, an advertising campaign, video game, building, kitchen appliance or viral video. The goal of this course will be not only to enhance your experience in a gallery or museum, but also to encourage you to look at the world itself with new eyes.

This course is consistent with CSU-Pueblo's General Education goals to prepare students to: effectively communicate and think critically, articulate the nature of a multicultural society and recognize the role of aesthetic awareness (Diversity and Social Responsibility), explain and reflect on positive and negative responses to controversial artworks (Personal Values and Ethics), and analyze the role of artists as both integrated with/isolated from mainstream society (Wellness and Well-Being).

HOW WE WILL CONDUCT THIS COURSE:

You are required to bring your copy of the text under discussion, a notebook, and a pen/pencil to each class.

1. Midterm and Final Essays (these are open-book/take-home)
2. Gallery/Museum visits (on your own time – not in class – we won't all fit in some of the spaces)
3. Weekly readings and writings (reviews and reflections demonstrating critical thinking)
4. Quizzes on readings assignments, and things viewed/discussed in class

Since this is also a course on how to write about art/visual culture, there will also be exercises and quizzes on principles of writing, usage, mechanics, spelling, and vocabulary. (You are responsible for finding out the meaning of any unfamiliar word you encounter in either the readings or the class discussions: you can either look it up in a dictionary or ask me).

5. Class participation is essential (critiques, in-class discussions, group work)
6. Lecture/video/discussion classes
7. Hands-on class activities to process through doing; See schedule for dates and times