

**LIBS 350: Global Rights & Social Justice:
AIDS and Visual Culture
The Civil Rights Movement and Visual Culture
Dr. Emily L. Newman
Texas A&M University – Commerce**

Monday and Wednesday, 1:00-2:15, DTH 304, Fall 2023

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For Office Hours, email to schedule an appointment (F2F or Zoom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES:

This course will provide experiences for students to work on close reading and enhancement of reading skills by carefully considering primary text materials and works of visual culture (including but not limited to artwork, films, music, poetry, and more). Students will also participate in high-level discussion through explication of text, critical questions, peer discussion, formal analysis, and more. The social and cultural impacts of AIDS and its relationship to history and visual culture (including popular uses to high art) will be emphasized. Specific events and the work of critical practitioners of the medium will be discussed. Additionally, students will read key essays in the field, and discuss and write about them critically. By the end of the course, the student will have a broad knowledge of the historical development of AIDS as a cultural moment, a pivotal historical event, and as it appears in visual culture. Working to refine their research skills, analytical frameworks, and critical evaluations, the students will produce exemplary research presentations incorporating the methods and tools that we have investigated over the semester.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- enhance critical thinking skills
- apply interdisciplinary scholarship and its theoretical underpinnings through designing and carrying out an independent research project.
- develop the skills to thoroughly research multiple disciplinary fields
- generate and effectively communicate scholarly material to communally engage in the process of assessment, critique, and refinement as applied to the work of not only the student but of their classmates as well.
- ability to work both independently and productively, while developing effective time management skills.
- learn to analyze the relationships among content, context, and style
- acquire a working knowledge of the specialized vocabulary used in art history
- become able to analyze important historical documents and criticism
- enhance visual literacy and critical thinking skills

ASSESSMENT:

Students' ability to meet the course objectives and learning outcomes will be evaluated through written assignments, discussion posts, worksheets, and a research project.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

MK Czerwiec, *Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unite 371*, ISBN: 1637790074

Please Note: you might also be required to watch TV shows/movies online or at a subscription service that may require a small fee.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:*

Participation: Each person is expected to be prepared for the class, which means having completed the reading and participating in the discussion posts and peer review projects.

Assignments: Throughout the course, you will have numerous written assignments, including worksheets and discussion posts. The assignments must be uploaded on time at the beginning of class and will NOT be accepted via email, unless specified.

Research Project: Throughout the course, you complete a major research project. Information will be given on this separately.

Assignments will NOT be accepted over one week late. For each class day late, the grade will be reduced. Further, the final project will not be able to be accepted late.

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion Posts: 25%

Podcast Assignment: 20%

Mini-Series Assignment: 25%

Civil Rights Leader Project: 30%

Grade Scale:

A = 90%-100% (exceptional)

B = 80%-89% (good)

C = 70%-79% (average)

D = 60%-69% (minimally sufficient)

F = 50%-59% (failure)

*subject to change

Note: Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the school or local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

WORKLOAD:

The rule of thumb for time required for course study and preparation each week for a face-to-face class or an online course during the spring and fall semesters is three times the number of credit hours (or 9 hours per week) for the course. If you find yourself unable to complete course requirements in a timely manner, refer to the University's withdrawal policy and the appropriate dates. Incomplete grades are only granted for extreme emergencies. Being "overloaded" either from other class assignments or job commitments are not considered to be emergency situations.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment must be uploaded on time. For each class day late, the grade will be deducted. **Assignments will NOT be accepted over ONE week late.**

FORMATTING

All written assignments must be typed using the following guidelines: 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins, double-spaced, with page numbers. Failure to format properly will result in a lower grade. Artwork titles **MUST** be italicized.

A&M-COMMERCE SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

UNIVERSITY'S PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Discussion: Each person will bring their own experiences to this class, and should feel comfortable expressing their opinions and vulnerabilities. The classroom is a safe environment, and each student should behave with integrity and treat their peers with respect.

Statement on Student Behavior:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenet of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If the instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42 – 46 of the Texas A&M University-commerce Student guidebook's Codes of Conduct for details.

Academic Dishonesty: Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. There is **no tolerance** for any kind of academic dishonesty in this course. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, and misrepresenting absences. Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, expulsion from class and/or the University, and a failing grade.

It is the student's responsibility to:

1. research and write their own papers
2. give proper credit through documentation when using words or ideas of others
3. rely on their own knowledge when taking tests
4. refuse to give another student the opportunity to be dishonest

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

more information can be found on our course's website

STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ADA ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce, Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

After contacting the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of what accommodations are needed **IN ADVANCE** of when they are needed (for example, if testing accommodations are necessary, please inform the instructor with appropriate documentation at LEAST one week before the test date).

EMAIL POLICY:

Email is the preferred form of communication, with a general response time of 24 hours during the week (do not expect replies over the weekend). For all emails sent, please **include full name, student ID, and the class** that you are attending. Do not send emails to myself and other professors at once, as each professor has different issues to address. You are allotted three absences for this course; plan accordingly and there is no need to contact me about unexcused absences that are incorporated into this allowance. For excused absences, you need to email a copy of appropriate documentation of your absence.

GRADE POLICY:

Assignments are due at the start of the class on the assigned date. Late work will only be accepted for one week after the due date, and the grade will be penalized. Concerning grade decisions, I will not discuss specific grades on ANY assignment or test the day it is returned. If you have concerns regarding a grade, email me **within one week of receiving the assignment back** clearly explaining why you think the assignment was addressed incorrectly. After the email is received, we will then set up an appointment to discuss the concern.

*** THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS***

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROGRAMS NEEDED

At a minimum, you must have access to and be able to use Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Tentative Course Schedule
(subject to change)

8/28 - Introduction

8/30 – Watch *Before Stonewall* (1984, Kanopy)

9/4 – Labor Day – no class

9/6 – Watch *Stonewall Uprising* (2010, Kanopy)

9/11 – Watch *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk* (1984, Kanopy)

9/13 – Listen to *Fiasco* (podcast episodes 1, 2)

9/18 – no class in person, Watch *Normal Heart* (2014, MAX)

9/20 – no class in person, Watch *Larry Kramer: In Love and Anger* (2015, MAX)

9/25 – Listen to *Fiasco* (podcast episodes 3, 4)

9/27 – Watch *Common Threads* (1989)

10/2 – Viewer's choice - watch one of the following:

An Early Frost (1985, youtube),

Parting Glances (1986, youtube)

The Ryan White Story (1989, Netflix)

10/4 – Watch *Philadelphia* (1993) and Listen to *Fiasco* (podcast episode 5)

10/9 – Read *Taking Turns* (2017)

10/11 – Read *Taking Turns* (2017)

10/16 – Watch *5B* (2018, peacock, tubi, etc.)

10/18 – Watch selections from *The Real World: San Francisco* (1994, Hulu, Paramount)
– Episodes 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 13, 16, 19, 20 (focus on Pedro storylines)

10/23 – no class in person, Read selection from *Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss, and What I Learned* (2000)

10/25 – Listen to *Fiasco* (podcast episodes 6, 7)

10/30 – Watch *We Were Here: The AIDS Years in San Francisco* (2011)

11/1 – Watch *Rent* (original 1996) – whichever version you prefer
11/6 – Watch *Angels in America* (MAX, episodes 1 and 2)

11/8 – Watch *Angels in America* (MAX, episodes 3 and 4)

11/13 – Watch *Angels in America* (MAX, episodes 5 and 6)

11/15 – Watch *United in Anger: A History of ACT UP* (2012, Kanopy)

11/20 – Watch *How to Survive a Plague* (2012, Kanopy)

11/22 – Thanksgiving

11/27 – Listen to *Fiasco* (podcast episode 8)

11/29 - TBA

12/4 - TBA

12/6 - TBA

12/11 - Final