



**ART 497-01H 24663 History of Art and Activism
Spring 2024
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 – 10:45 pm - Art 111**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Melynda Seaton, Assistant Professor of Art History

Office Location: Art 113

Office Hours: Tues. 12:30- 1:30 pm and by appointment

Office Phone: 214-810-4732 or Department of Art Office - 903-886-5208

Office Fax: 903-886-5987

University Email Address: Melynda.Seaton@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: M-TH: 24-48 hours, F-Sun will reply following Monday

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:

No textbook is required for purchase. Assigned readings and videos will be accessed via D2L and the online through TAMUC library.

Course Description

The course examines the role of art in protest associated with political and social movements throughout the world. The social and cultural context of art produced will range from the French Revolution to contemporary topics including civil rights to environmentalism from a variety of artistic media. We will explore art as a means of activism.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To gain an understanding of the role of visual arts in political and social movements throughout the world.
2. To see the ways in which art reflects or communicates social, political, and ideological values.
3. To learn about how particular forms of media were implemented as tools of activism in uprising and revolutions throughout history.
4. To learn about artist's roles as activists in political and social movements.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using D2L Brightspace learning management system, Microsoft Word.

Course Instruction Methods and Student Expectations:

This course will require both reading material located in the D2L classroom or accessed via through the TAMUC library, regular class attendance, and active participation in class discussion. Assignments will include written assignments and class presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 89.5%-100%		A = 369 – 400 Points
B = 79.5%-89%		B = 320 – 368 Points
C = 69.5%-79%	OR	C = 280 - 319 Points
D = 59.5%-69%		D = 240- 279 Points
F = 59% or below		F = 278 & > Points

Assessments

Assignments – 4 @ 50 pts = 200 pts

Creative Research Project – 200 pts

Total Points – 400

Course Policies:

Assignments: Late submissions will receive a ½ letter grade deduction for each day submitted late and will not be accepted after three (3) days past deadline. See course schedule for assignments deadlines.

Participation: Students are expected to attend class, having completed the assigned reading, and prepared to critically discuss the readings and actively participate in class discussion. The success of each week’s discussion depends on the preparation of all the class participants.

It is the responsibility of each student to monitor his/her attendance. Each student in this course is allowed five (5) unexcused absences. Unexcused absences require no explanation on the part of the student.

In this class, excused absences are: (1) participation in pre-approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University-related academic reasons; (2) verifiable legal proceedings; and (3) cases of illness, injury, or emergencies. For any absences to be considered excused, illness or otherwise, documentation for your absence must be emailed to your professor not later than 5 days after the missed class. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence, NO EXCEPTIONS. When a student accrues more than five (5) unexcused absences the instructor has the prerogative to drop the student 1 letter grade for each unexcused absence exceeding 5. For example, 6 unexcused absences will drop an “A” to a “B” and so forth. Students with excess absences may be dropped from the course.

Academic dishonesty:

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this class. Be sure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one’s own, responses created by Ai, etc.). Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression in college and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, dismissal from class, expulsion from the University, and a failing grade. See [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Use of Ai technology is prohibited for all coursework. Ai tools such as Grammarly or Quilbot should ONLY be used to assist you with spelling and grammar issues. If such tools are used to write assignments, students must provide a copy of rough drafts, hand-written notes, and/or outlines prior to editing. If Ai is suspected for any assignment - written or creative - and students fail to provide a rough draft, hand-written notes, sketches, and/or an outline, a grade of zero will be assigned and a report of Academic Dishonesty may be filed with the Provost's office.

Classroom Etiquette:

CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE CLASSROOM. ANY STUDENT TEXT MESSAGING WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE CLASS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Please be mindful and respectful of others in the classroom. In all communication including email and discussion groups please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use of profanity, slang or racial slurs is NOT permitted
- Be mindful of tone, keep it professional and respectful of others
- Avoid jokes, as they may not come across as such by others

Any behavior that is deemed disruptive by the instructor may result in a student being asked to leave class, and continued disruptions may also result in expulsion from the class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection 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 local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Technical Support

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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email is the quickest and most reliable way to contact me at melynda.seaton@tamuc.edu and I will conduct email correspondence according to the following schedule:

- Monday–Thursday: Every effort will be made to answer your emails within a 24-48-hour period.
- Friday–Sunday: I will try to answer your emails in a timely manner, but please understand you may not receive a response until the following Monday or Tuesday.

You may also contact me at 214-810-4732. If you wish to call, please be mindful of the time and only call during normal business hours Monday – Thursday, 8 am – 5 pm.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

If you encounter problems accessing D2L, please contact Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778.

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#)<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13student/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

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

ART 497-01E SPRING 2024 COURSE CALENDAR

Schedule is subject to change.

Date	TOPIC
Thu., Jan. 11	Course Intro
Tue., Jan. 16	What is Activist art?
Thu., Jan. 18	French Revolution
Tue., Jan. 23	Bolshevik Revolution
Thu., Jan. 25	Arab Spring
Tue., Jan. 30	Dada- Antifascism - WW II
Thu., Feb. 1	American Wars - Vietnam to Afghanistan
Tue., Feb. 6	Research Workshop
Thu., Feb. 8	Artistic Activism - Overview 1
Tue., Feb. 13	Harlem Renaissance
Thu., Feb. 15	Black Power - Civil Rights
Tue., Feb. 20	Black cinema
Thu., Feb. 22	<i>Do The Right Thing</i>
Tue., Feb. 27	<i>Do The Right Thing</i>
Thu., Feb. 29	Contemporary American Black Women Artists
Tue., Mar. 5	Contemporary American Black Artists
Thu., Mar. 7	Apartheid in South Africa
Tue., Mar. 12	SPRING BREAK
Thu., Mar. 14	SPRING BREAK
Tue., Mar. 19	Mexican Revolution
Thu., Mar. 21	EL Movimiento
Tue., Mar. 26	Chicanx & Latinx
Thu., Mar. 28	Creative Research Project Checkpoint
Tue., Apr. 2	Native American
Thu., Apr. 4	Native American
Tue., Apr. 9	Native American
Thu., Apr. 11	Native American
Tue., Apr. 16	Feminism
Thu., Apr. 18	Feminism
Tue., Apr. 23	LGTBQ+/AIDS
Thu., Apr. 25	LGTBQ+ Contemporary
Tue., Apr. 30	Environmentalism
Thu., May 2	Study Day
Thu., May 9 8-10am	Project Presentations

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.