HONORS 200: SHAPING OF THE MODERN MIND (HU)
WHAT IS ART? (Spring 2019)

Section 001: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30-10:45 am, Honors House 195
Section 004: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45 pm, Honors House 195

Instructor: Hilary K. Snow, PhD
Office hours: Mondays – Thursdays 9 – 9:30 am
Mondays and Wednesdays 10:45 am – 12:15 pm
Thursdays 10:45 – 11:45 am
Other times by appointment
Office: Honors College 151
Email: snowh@uwm.edu

Course Description
At once simple and complicated, “art” can be defined in many ways. What makes the work of one person celebrated while others are forgotten? How do artists, art historians and the public approach works of art? This course interrogates the idea of “art” across history and cultures, focusing on what Western art history has defined as masterpieces of “art” and what ideas get left out from that perspective. We will examine important movements in art and art history, including feminist approaches, the rise of abstraction, and how art can be used to understand history. We will consider art not only as an aesthetic activity, but also as a part of social movements and political ideas. We will also discuss museum displays and how public presentations can affect our understandings. Famous works studied include Leonardo da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa,” Marcel Duchamp’s “Fountain,” and Katsukawa Hokusai’s “Great Wave.” No background in art or art history is necessary.

GER Statement
This course fulfills UWM’s GER requirements. To this end, this course is intended to:
1. Increase students’ critical and creative thinking skills through classroom discussions and written assignments.
2. Provide students with opportunities to hone their effective communication skills through classroom discussions and presentations.
3. Stimulate students’ intercultural knowledge and competence through the introduction of new content and ideas.

Credit Hour Breakdown
The expected minimum number of hours of energy expended by students in this class is as follows:
Classroom discussion and discussion: 37.5 hours
Reading and outside activities: 56.5 hours
Paper research and writing: 50 hours
Total: 144 hours

University Policies
For relevant policies governing attendance, religious observances, disability accommodations, incompletes, and other issues, please visit: http://www4.uwm.edu/secure/SyllabusLinks.pdf. Please notify me immediately if you need accommodations under any of these policies.
The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the Accessibility Resource Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student’s educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.

**Textbook**
There are two textbooks for this course. You may purchase them through the bookstore or another source of your choice. A copy of each is on two-hour reserve at Golda Meir Library.


Additional readings are available as PDFs or links on the course Canvas site. Some links will not work if you are not on campus or the library does not recognize your computer as part of the UWM system. In those cases, use the citation information included in the syllabus to access the material through the library website.

**Field trips**
There are two off-campus field trips for this class. Further details will be distributed later in the semester.

- Friday, October 25th – Chipstone Foundation with Ruthie Dibble, Curator and Director of Research
- Wednesday, October 30th – Milwaukee Art Museum with Nikki Otten, Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings

**Assignments**
Further instructions for written assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

- Discussion leading – Students will work in small groups to lead discussion twice during the semester. Student-led discussions will begin after September 20th.
- Formal analysis – Students will select a work of art to using the principles of formal analysis. This paper must be rewritten.
- Synthesis paper – Students will select a work of art to investigate how art historians and others have interpreted the work. This paper may be rewritten for a higher grade. Students will also give a short presentation based upon this paper.
- Artist biography – Students will select an artist and write a short biography.
- Critical reflection journal – Students will maintain a journal with critical reflections on class discussions and readings.
- Other short assignments will be given throughout the semester.
- Students are expected to actively and productively participate in class discussions and peer reviews. To fully participate, preparation is required outside of class.
Students should regularly check Canvas for course announcements and materials. All course handouts and other supplementary materials will be posted to Canvas as they become available.

**Grading Procedure**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and short assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion leading</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal analysis of a work of art</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthesis paper on work of art, 5-7 pp</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthesis paper presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist biography</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical reflection journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
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