Course Title

Art & Ideas: Autobiography

Course Number
ARTCR-UE.9150001

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Lecturer Contact Information
Agnes Lux
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Course Details
Wednesdays, 10:00am – 12:45pm, Room TBA, Academic Center

Prerequisites
None

Units earned
3 credits

Course Description
Auto – bio – graphy (Greek: Auto – self; bios – life; graphein – to write)
Auto – nomy (Greek: Auto – self; nomos – law)
This class includes autobiographical works by writers, filmmakers and artists, as well as psychological and philosophical concepts evolving around the problem of (aesthetic) personal formation between freedom and determinism. Students research this question by studying the assigned material and by interviewing a person of their choice. Interview results are presented to the class.
Each week, a different student is responsible for presenting the assigned course material as well as background research to the group.
Since the students find themselves in a new context – the city of Berlin – the mapping of new experiences through a diary or sketchbook is part of the class and is used for the creative production of the final assignment – an "autobiographical (e.g. literary) sketch" of any format.

Course Objective
Analyze concepts presented in the class.
Investigate and differentiate between different concepts and translate them into your own research.
Successfully complete all assignments.
Integrate concepts and ideas into your own arguments.
Identify ideas and reflect on presented material.
Articulate ideas in creative production.

Assessment Components
Completion of assignment #1 *Presentation* (10-15 min.) and *Paper* (12-15 pages, 12pt. double spaced): 20%

Completion of assignment #2 *Interview*: 20%

Completion of assignment #3 *Autobiographical* (e.g. literary, filmic) *sketch in any format*: 20%

Class Participation and preparation: 20%

Independent study: 20%

**Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved grades in other assignments.**

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Grade Conversion**

Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
B+ &=& 87-89 & C+ &=& 77-79 & D+ &=& 67-69 & F &=& \text{below 65} \\
A &=& 94-100 & B &=& 84-86 & C &=& 74-76 & D &=& 65-66 \\
A- &=& 90-93 & B- &=& 80-83 & C- &=& 70-73
\end{array}
\]

Alternatively:

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
A &= 4.0 & A- &= 3.7 \\
B+ &= 3.3 & B &= 3.0 & B- &= 2.7 \\
C+ &= 2.3 & C &= 2.0 & C- &= 1.7 \\
D+ &= 1.3 & D &= 1.0 & F &= 0.0
\end{array}
\]

**Attendance Policy**
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or NYU Berlin's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor's notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html)

**Late Submission of Work**

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the lecturer or to the Academics Office, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.
(3) Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor’s note or by approval of NYU Berlin’s administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Plagiarism Policy
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: http://nyu.libguides.com/citations).

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

Required Text(s)
All readings can be accessed through NYU Classes

NYU Berlin Library Catalogue: http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin or follow the link on NYU Berlin’s website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Internet Research Guidelines
To be discussed in class
Additional Required Equipment
To be discussed in class

Session 1 – 1 Feb 2017
Introduction
Ongoing preparation for final project: Autobiographical (e.g. literary, filmic) sketch in any format. Collect material e.g. found objects, diary entries, photographs, etc. for approximately the 1st third of Spring Semester 2017. Pitch your idea in session 6.
Presentation of this project in session 14.

Creative exercise TBA.

Ongoing homework: Always read assigned texts and take notes. Always prepare 3 statements that you can prove with quotes from the text. Always formulate 3 questions that you can use to foster discussion in class.

Session 2 – 8 Feb 2017
Paul Thek, “Questionnaire”.
Assign student presentations.

Presentation and Discussion:
1) Freud, Sigmund, The Uncanny, 1919.
2) Selection of Oskar Kokoschka, Hans Bellmer, Mike Kelley, Cindy Sherman.

Session 3 – 15 Feb 2017
Presentation and Discussion:
2) Screening: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, In a Year of 13 Moons, 1978.

Session 4 – 22 Feb 2017
Presentation and Discussion:
1) Student Presentation #1: Fassbinder.

2) Student Presentation #2: Hegel.

Session 5 – 1 Mar 2017
Presentation and Discussion:
1) Student Presentation #3: Lacan.
2) Student Presentation #4: Mark Leckey.

Intro to Interview Strategies: Select the person you would like to interview and set an appointment for interview. Presentation of interview results in sessions 11 & 12.

Session 6 – 8 Mar 2017
Present your proposal for the final project: Autobiographical (e.g. literary, filmic) sketch in any format.

Student Presentation #5: Frances Stark.
Visit: 11:15 – 12:45pm Artist Ellen Gronemeyer.

15 Mar 2017 – Spring Break – No Class

Session 7 – 22 Mar 2017 – No In-Class Session – Independent Study
Independent study individually assigned for each student:

Office hours TBA

Session 8 – 29 Mar 2017
Presentation and Discussion of homework (Darboven).

Review Interview Strategies: Select the person you would like to interview and set an appointment for interview. Presentation of interview results in sessions 11 & 12.

Session 9 – 5 Apr 2017
Student Presentation #6: Helen Keller.

Visit: 11:15 – 12:45pm Dr. Gudrun Wedel presenting her research on autobiographies by 19th century female writers.

Session 10 – 12 Apr 2017
Presentation and Discussion:
1) Student Presentation #7: Derrida.
Section TBA

2) Student Presentation #8: David Leggett.
Session 11 – 19 Apr 2017
Presentation of Interviews 1st Round

Session 12 – 26 Apr 2017
Presentation of Interviews 2nd Round
All #2 Interview papers due today.

Session 13 – 3 May 2017
Discussion: Recap Interviews.
Visit: 11:15 – 12:45pm Laura Lopez Paniagua on Mike Kelley (1954-2012)

Session 14 – 10 May 2017
Presentation of project #3: Autobiographical (e.g. literary, filmic) sketch in any format, 1st third, Spring Semester 2015.

Session 15 – 17 May 2017
Hand in final papers: Use your presentation as a stepping stone to build your own research. Each student will discuss topic individually before writing the paper.

Classroom Etiquette
Use of phones is not permitted in class. Please store your phone in your bag and do not leave it on the table.
No laptops allowed in class.
Always bring pen and paper to the class.
Be on time and be prepared.

Required Co-Curricular Activities
None

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
None

Your Lecturer
Agnes Lux is an artist living and working in Berlin, Germany. She received an MFA from NYU, New York in 2012 and graduated from Kunstakademie Düsseldorf as a Master Student in 2010. Lux has exhibited extensively in the United States and throughout Europe. Recent solo presentations include Winter, summer together, Martos Gallery, New York, NY; Label the Shapes, Martos Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; To Whom It May Concern, SpazioA, Pistoia, Italy.