EXPRESSIVE CULTURES : CONTEMPORARY ART IN BRITAIN.

CORE-UA 9720L01

Instructor Information

- Professor Deborah Cherry

Course Information

- Tuesdays, 9am-12pm, Bedford Square, room G03 (ground floor), and art venues in London. This class takes place in London galleries and museums as well as in Bedford Square. Details of venues, meeting places and travel guidance are on NYU classes

Course Overview and Goals

- This class introduces you to some of the key issues in understanding and dealing analytically with contemporary art. We explore a range of art produced from the later 20c to now, focusing on contemporary art on display in exhibitions and museums in London, a premier global city that is today a leading international art centre. Contemporary art raises vigorous debates. To understand and debate the challenges and complexities of contemporary art we study a range of analytical writings on art and visual culture.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Consider and debate contemporary art and the issues it raises
- Consider and discuss the institutions, display and markets of contemporary art
- Consider and discuss London as an international centre for contemporary art

Course Requirements

- A strong interest in the role that art and visual images play in contemporary culture, plus an enthusiasm and an ability to look, analyse and debate
- Punctual attendance and paper submission
- Reading and analysis of the set texts
- Students must abide by NYU policy on Academic Integrity
- A camera, smart phone & digital or paper notebook are useful for gallery and museum visits.
- London Oyster card essential for travelling to and from sites
Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to these assessment components:
Short paper 20%. Long paper 40%. Research Presentation, 30%; Participation, contribution, punctuality, attendance 10%. Details of the assignments on NYU classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments/Activities</th>
<th>Description of Assignment</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
<th>Due By 9am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>Short Paper. Details on NYU classes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3 proposal</td>
<td>Presentation Proposal. Details on NYU classes</td>
<td>Not graded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>Long Paper. Details on NYU classes</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>Presentation. Details on NYU classes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Everyone’s presentation must be completed by 7 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Details on NYU classes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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You are required to submit a paper copy in class as well as an electronic copy via Turnitin. Grading will take account of the visual presentation of your work as well as academic content, research and referencing. See Assignment Information and Guidelines on NYU Classes.

At NYU a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting them in others. NYU Policy on Academic Integrity posted on NYU Classes.

In addition to Graded Assignments you will be required to post your proposal for Assignment 3 on the Forum on NYU classes and to prepare and deliver group presentations on site on selected visits.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class
Plagiarism will be penalised

Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Example: 93.5% and higher</td>
<td>Demonstration of detailed familiarity with the visual and critical material under discussion; evidence of ability to engage critically with the main and secondary texts, pertinent, imaginative visual examples perceptively analysed and discussed; Fluent and articulate expression combined with ability to organise material and</td>
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</tbody>
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Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- Terry Smith *What is Contemporary Art?* (Chicago 2009)
- Don Thompson *$12 Million Stuffed Shark: The Curious Economics of Contemporary Art* (London 2008)

Weekly readings assigned for each class are posted on NYU classes.

Optional Textbooks & Materials


Resources

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>establish argument and main ideas. High level of engagement with the class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Example: 82.5% - 87.49%</td>
<td>Demonstration of familiarity with the visual and critical material under discussion evidence of ability to engage with critical secondary material and visual analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Example: 72.5% - 77.49%</td>
<td>Limited reference to the primary and secondary visual and critical material and lacking the ability to organise material coherently</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Example: 62.5% - 67.49</td>
<td>Little or no reference to the visual and critical course material. May be descriptive with uncritical accounts and unfocused account of the subject of the paper; summaries of the main issues rather than argument; Inadequate or no bibliography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Example: 59.99% and lower</td>
<td>Little or no understanding of the subject and little evidence of visual analysis or reading. Poorly organised and confused argument; clearly failed to understand the material under discussion. Inadequate or no referencing of source material. Lack of engagement with core issues of the class.</td>
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Access your course materials: NYU Classes (nyu.edu/its/classes)
Databases, journal articles, and more: Bobst Library (library.nyu.edu)
NYUL Library Collection: Senate House Library (catalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk)
Assistance with strengthening your writing: NYU Writing Center (nyu.mywconline.com)
Obtain 24/7 technology assistance: IT Help Desk (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Internet Research Guidelines:
Museums and galleries, newspapers and art journals provide reputable websites for contemporary art. Websites such as Tate and MoMA have considerable information on art, art movements and artists, see for example www.tate.org.uk.
The potential value of the internet for the study of contemporary art is enormous and exciting. Many websites need to be used with great care. Those immediately available may be limited and unreliable. Remember anyone can post material online. Unlike academic publications many websites are not subject to peer review. Museum websites are peer reviewed and reliable. You should use the web to complement your reading and not replace it. Like books and articles, websites should be acknowledged with appropriate references. All sources for your own research for papers and presentations should be academic or related institutional literature and web sites. NOTE: Using Wikipedia and similar websites as scholarly sources will be penalized.

Course Schedule
Order of sessions may change depending on venue availability—check updates on email.
Required and supplementary texts for all sessions are available on NYU classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due 9am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>What is Contemporary Art - 1: Bedford Square</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>What is Contemporary Art - 2: Study Visit. Tate Modern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>What is Contemporary Art - 3: Study Visit. Tate Modern</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td>What is Contemporary Art – 4: Lecture and Discussion Bedford Square</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
<td>London’s Global Art Market - 2: Study Visit. Dealer galleries in London’s west end.</td>
<td>Assignment 1 due in class on paper and on NYU Classes</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>Installation. <em>Bill Viola/Michelangelo</em>. Study Visit. Royal Academy of Arts</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Photography. <em>Don McCullin</em>. Study Visit. Tate Britain</td>
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<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Debate and discussion Bedford Square. Preparation for Assignment 2</td>
<td>Post your Assignment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Session/Date | Topic | Assignment Due 9am
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| | | 3 proposal on Forum on NYU Classes
Session 9 | Tracey Emin – A Fortnight of Tears: Study visit White Cube Bermondsey | |
Session 10 | Lecture Bedford Square by artist and curator Marlene Smith | Assignment 2 due in class
BREAK | | |
Session 11 | TBA | |
Session 12 | Researching Contemporary Art: Bedford Square | |
Session 13 | Presentations | Assignment 3: Assessed Presentation
Session 14 | Presentations | There is no final exam

**Co-Curricular Activities**

Independent visits to museums and galleries, late nights at museums, or gallery openings such as First Thursdays of every month, when 150 galleries in east London run free events, exhibitions, talks, workshops, and private views. [http://www.firstthursdays.co.uk/](http://www.firstthursdays.co.uk/) Check out weekly listings in *Time Out*, free at subway stations/online, for listings and recommendations.

**Classroom and Study Visit Etiquette**

Attendance in class is mandatory unless excused. Report absence to me and to NYU London promptly. If you are going to be late or absent you must text me or call me. We will not wait for you if you are late.

- Please put your mobile on silent in class at Bedford Square and on visits
- You may use your phone, tablet or laptop in class, as long as it is for class use
- Please do not eat in class at Bedford Square or on visits. Coffee is not permitted in art venues.
- It’s important to be alert and to stay safe on visits and in transit
- Wear appropriate clothing and shoes
- London drives on the left not the right.
- Use green-light crossings, and if there is no crossing, be cautious and careful.
- Guard against phone theft & restrict use your phone on the move.
- Check in advance that your Oystercard is topped up
- Bring water with you & a portable snack if needed on visits
- Many art venues require bag check; travel light where possible

Check out the meet instructions and sitepoint. Please be on time. Check out how to get there using [https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/](https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/); it has useful walking maps as well as underground and...
bus routes. Add 10 minutes at least to its journey times (they don’t include times for changing underground lines for example). Google maps can be inaccurate.

NYUL Academic Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

- Key information on NYU London’s absence policy, how to report absences, and what kinds of absences can be excused can be found on our website - http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html

Assignments, Plagiarism, and Late Work

- Information and guidance on Assignments for this class is provided on NYU classes
- You can find details on assignments, plagiarism, late work and more on this section of our NYU website - https://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/academic-policies.html and on the Policies and Procedures section of the NYU website for students studying away at global sites (https://www.nyu.edu/academics/studying-abroad/upperclassmen-semester-academic-year-study-away/academic-resources/policies-and-procedures.html).

Classroom Conduct

Academic communities exist to facilitate the process of acquiring and exchanging knowledge and understanding, to enhance the personal and intellectual development of its members, and to advance the interests of society. Essential to this mission is that all members of the University Community are safe and free to engage in a civil process of teaching and learning through their experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Accordingly, no student should engage in any form of behaviour that interferes with the academic or educational process, compromises the personal safety or well-being of another, or disrupts the administration of University programs or services. Please refer to the NYU Disruptive Student Behavior Policy for examples of disruptive behavior and guidelines for response and enforcement. https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-student-conduct-policy.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Your Instructor

Deborah Cherry is Professor of Art History at Central St Martins College of Art and Design. She has published widely on British art and on contemporary art and curated several major exhibitions, including Maud Sulter: Passion (Glasgow, 2015, Bradford 2016). She is currently co-editing a book on Tracey Emin. Her publications include The Edwardian Era (1987), Painting Women (1994), Beyond the Frame (2000), and The Afterlives of Monuments (2013), as well as numerous articles. Her co-written essay on women’s suffrage and the arts was published last year to mark the
century since women were first granted the right to vote in the UK. She has worked at the universities of Manchester, Sussex and Amsterdam.