

University of North Carolina- Asheville

FALL -2008

*“I’d like to believe that the ongoing initiation into art deepens our capacity for experiencing ourselves as well as others, thereby deepening our capacity for personhood, our achievement of humanity.”- Edward Hirsch*

ARTS310-001                      DI:Art and Politics                      10834 3hr  
TR 0145PM - 0300PM      KH 005                      Instructor: Jerry Pope

jpope@unca.edu      home phone: 686-3922 (*after 9am and before 10pm, please*)

Office Hours: Briefly, before and after class. Special meetings by appointment

Required Texts:

*Uncle Tom’s Cabin: A Tale of Life Among the Lowly*, Harriet Beecher Stowe

*My Year of Meats*, Ruth L. Oseki

*Maus*, Vols 1&2, Art Spiegelman

*Barefoot Gen*, Vols 1&2, Keiji Nakazawa

**Course Overview**

This section of Arts and Ideas will focus on the intersection of art, politics, and culture. We will examine a wide variety of works from this perspective. We will look briefly and occasionally at ancient and classical art, but focus primarily on contemporary American works. We will try to cover most disciplines, but will concentrate on paintings, novels, films, music, and plays.

This class fulfills the requirements for a Diversity Intensive Course. We will pay particular heed to the ways race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and ability inform the work. We will discuss how levels of power and privilege are imbedded in society and can be reflected in all works of art. We will examine how these levels operate for the artist, the audience, and the subjects of the various pieces of art.

The primary work of this class will be group discussion. Students will do individual analyses in essay form. As a final project, students will create a work of art that addresses the topic. Art and Ideas is not an art appreciation course or an introduction to any of the particular arts, but the human significance of Art, its social role, its foundation in aesthetics, and its importance as a way of interpreting reality. It introduces the student to the arts as a way of knowing the world, and of shaping the world.

**Course Objectives**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Look critically at Art, especially in popular culture
2. Discuss the social and personal role of the arts in American society.
3. Discuss the economic, political, historical, and social influences on Art.
4. Express their own ideas concerning the role of the arts in their personal life, and American society.
5. Articulate their personal place in, and awareness of, societal constructs of race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and ability.

**Course Outline****I. Class Environment**

This class, like all classes (and most things human), is a construct; students, the teacher, and guests agree to certain spoken or unspoken rules. We will agree on a contract to govern our actions while in class.

Students are expected to take an active part in class discussions. While each person's opinion is valued, you will be expected to express why you hold that particular opinion.

**II. Journals, Tests & Quizzes**

There will be tests over *My Year of Meats*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and *Maus & Barefoot Gen*. On the first day that an assignment is scheduled to be discussed, there may be a short quiz comprised of basic questions concerning the assignment's main ideas. You will receive credit for whatever points you make; a 40 is better than a 0, so try. Quizzes missed due to excused absence may be made up outside of class. Arrangements must be made with the instructor to schedule make-ups.

**III. 4 Response Papers**

Every seventh class, you will turn in a 2-3-page response to artwork explored in the previous three weeks. No late responses will be accepted. This is not a summary, it is your opportunity to demonstrate your familiarity and understanding of the material. You may do this in one of two ways:

A. Write three questions that look deeply at the material. Then answer one of your questions thoughtfully. (obviously, no "yes/no" or "what year did.." questions). Challenge yourself on the questions and the answers.

B. Write a response that demonstrates your familiarity with the material and your personal perspective; what are your opinions, reactions, questions, and conclusions?

C. Write a discussion of a specific piece of art from a diversity perspective. How does it relate to race? Class? Gender? Sexual Orientation? Ability? Where do these concerns intersect? How do these concerns inform the work?

**IV. The Midterm**

This exam will give you an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and mastery of terms and ideas presented in this class.

**V. 3 Critical Essays**

There will be three (3) required papers, 2-3 pages, due during the semester. Each paper will be a critical essay on a public art event. The subject can be a movie, concert, art exhibit, bar band, etc. If you're not sure if an event will qualify, ask the instructor.

*Check List for Successful Response Papers & Critical Essays;*

1. Focus: does it address a specific work of art or several related works of art?
2. Specificity: does it discuss specific, concrete examples from the work and works you are comparing it to?
3. Vocabulary: does it use language specific to this art form ("hue", "balance", "variety", "dark red", "jagged") in a meaningful manner?
4. Personal: does it include your honest, personal reaction to the artwork?
5. Political: does it discuss the political aspects of the piece?
6. Diversity: does it acknowledge and discuss what diversity issues are raised by the piece?
7. Legibility: does it conform to the presentation requirements listed below?

**VI. The Final Project**

You will create a work of art that more or less subtly embodies a political point of view. This can be in any art form, except collage and computer presentations (including “movies“). You may not do a project in your major ( i.e., painting major, music major, theater major. This is your opportunity to explore an unfamiliar discipline.) You may work in small groups, but each person will be graded individually on their participation. The project must be approved by the instructor. Following the presentation, you will discuss your work with the class. Half of your grade for the final project will be Peer Grading based on the following:

1. Self-created art
2. Identifiable political content
3. Discussed with professor
4. Shows thought on content
5. Shows time spent on construction
6. Originality
7. Discusses process coherently
8. That certain ineffable something

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

Up to two well written, typed critical essays (2-3 pages). will earn extra credit ranging from zero to three points added to total points for the term, depending upon the quality.

**Class Policies and Procedures:**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes and to be present for the entire class. Students who are more than 15 minutes late will be counted absent. If you are late, make sure I count you present. **One point will be dropped from your final grade for each unexcused absence.** If you are ill, bring a doctor’s excuse to ensure that you will receive an excused absence. Unexcused absences are for minor illnesses (flu, cold, etc). Other non-illness excused absences on a case-by-case basis. If you are absent on a day a test is assigned, you will not be able to make up the test without a doctor’s excuse.

**Presentation:** All outside papers must be typed, with standard formatting, punctuation, and grammar. I.e., 12-point type, one-inch margins, double spaced, no fancy typefaces or large and elaborate headings. A page of typing means margin to margin.

**Plagiarism:** Every student should read the University’s policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism or cheating on an assignment will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Grades** will be distributed as follows:

Critical Essays (3 at 5% each)	15%
Response papers (4 at 5% each)	20%
MYOM Test	5%
UTC Test	5%
Graphic Novels Test	5%
Midterm	10%
Attendance & Participation	30%
Final Project	10%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale: A=100-95, A- = 94-92, B+ = 91-90, B= 89-86, B- = 85-83, C+ = 82-79, C =,78-

75, C- =74- 70, D+= 69-67, D= 66-63, D- = 62-60, F= 59-0

**Calendar:**

**AUGUST:**

- 19- Syllabus, An Art Event, Vocabulary
- 21- **Oedipus**, 88” (play/video)
- 26- **The Third of May, 1808**, (Francisco Goya) (painting)
- 28- **Guernica**,(Pablo Picasso) ( painting) *HANDOUT*

**SEPTEMBER:**

- 2- **The Cradle Will Rock** 134” (film/play)
  - 4- **The Cradle Will Rock pt 2**
  - 9- **Degenerate Art** 60” (video/art) 1st Response Paper due
  - 11 - **Maus, I&II** (graphic novels) *HANDOUT*
  - “ -Art Spiegelman, lecture TIME?
  - 16- **Barefoot Gen I&II**(graphic novels) Graphic Novels Test
  - 18- **Faces of the Enemy** (art/documentary)
  - 23- **Uncle Tom’s Cabin** (novel) UTC Test
- [www.iath.virginia.edu/utc/](http://www.iath.virginia.edu/utc/)

- 25- TBA
- 30- **Do the Right Thing**, 120”(film) 1st Critical Essay due

**OCTOBER:**

- 2- **Do the Right Thing, pt 2** 2nd Response Paper due
- 7- **Amandla** 103” (video/music)
- 9- **Amandla, pt 2**
- 11-14 FALL BRK
- 16- Midterm *HANDOUT*
- 21- **Common Threads** 79” (documentary) 2nd Critical Essay due
- 23- **Constant Gardener** (film/play) *QUILT SQUARE*
- 28- **Bulworth** 100”(Movie)
- 30- **Bulworth, pt 2** 3rd Response Paper due

**NOVEMBER**

- 4- No class (election day)
- 6- **My Year of Meats** (novel) MYOM Test
- 11- **Thomas Kinkade** (painter)
- 13- **Masami Teraoka** (painter) Final project approval deadline
- 18- **The Dinner Party** (Installation) 3rd Critical Essay due
- 20- **Banksey** (graffiti artist)
- 25- **Andy Goldsworthy** (environmental artist) 4th Response Paper due

THANKSGIVING

**DECEMBER:**

- 2- Final Projects
- 4- Final Projects
- 9- Reading Day
- 16 Final, 11:30 – 2PM