

ARTS 310.003: ARTS AND IDEAS
Women In Pop Culture
KH 101; Fall 2009

Instructor: Anne Slatton

Office Hours: M, W, F 11:15-12:15; T, R 12:30-2:30pm

*office hours before or after class also available by appointment

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Arts and Ideas focuses on the significance of art, its social role, its foundation in aesthetics, and its importance as a way of interpreting culture. It introduces the student to the arts as a way of knowing and shaping the world. This course is focused on contemporary women's contributions to film, theater, music, photography and fine art. The final weeks of the course are dedicated to student presentations about a female artist of their choice.

Course Objectives

- o To identify contemporary female artists and thinkers
- o Discuss economic, political, historical, and social influences on art today
- o Express original ideas concerning the role of the arts on a personal level

Required Textbooks

- o *No One Belongs Here More Than You*, Miranda July
- o *The Clean House*, Sarah Ruhl
- o Course reserve readings
- o Assigned readings online

Course Policies

- o If you have a recognized disability that might interfere with your success in the course, please see me at the beginning of the semester to arrange accommodations.

- o In the event of a canceled class, we will adhere to the schedule. If we miss the screening of a film, you will be responsible for watching that film outside of class. Assignments that were due will be expected on the day that classes reconvene.

(In and out of) Class Discussion Policy

This is a discussion-based class so your participation is essential. As we will sometimes be covering sensitive topics, I will expect you to remain civil to your fellow classmates at all times. We will utilize our course webpage to articulate and explore responses to the artwork, readings and films via an online discussion. The intention is to produce in written form the kinds of conversations that we might have in class when time does not allow. Your successful participation will depend on your responses to other's postings, so make sure to take the time to read and respond to what others have said. Each student will be assigned

responsibility for posting questions and facilitating discussions. You will be graded on the substance of your postings, your response to others, and the overall quality of discussion when you are actively facilitating.

Participation

The development of your own viewpoint, and the ability to discuss your opinions intelligently, are the primary focuses of this class; therefore, **participation is essential**. This involves showing up for class, listening to others, actively inquiring, and contributing your own ideas in class and on our course webpage.

Research Paper/Presentation

Students will be paired in groups of two and assigned a designated topic. (A list of possible topics and a detailed assignment sheet will be distributed separately.) Each student will do extensive research on one area that will culminate in a research paper of five pages not including the bibliography and title page.

The team will then give a presentation of approximately 30 minutes (15 minutes each) demonstrating some aspect of what they have learned, and giving other students the opportunity to learn from them as well. This is your chance to take a creative approach to learning, so don't be afraid to take a risk and have fun.

Final Exam

A final exam will be given on the last day of class, which will require you to synthesize ideas from readings and videos, presentations, discussions.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The key to avoiding plagiarism is to remember that when an idea, phrase, term, definition, or pattern of organization is not your own, you are responsible for giving credit to the source from which you took these elements either with direct quotes or by paraphrasing. Plagiarism is a grave breach of intellectual integrity. Instructors have the authority to give students a failing grade for the course because of a single instance of plagiarism or other form of cheating.

Attendance Policy

Because this class meets only once a week and working within discussion groups is a large part of this class, attendance is extremely important; therefore, **each student will be allowed 1 unexcused absence only**. Excused absences will be considered only if they are extremely serious (e.g. accident, family emergency) and the instructor reserves the right to ask for documentation. **Whether excused or unexcused, you will be responsible for the material covered during the class(es) missed.**

Grading: (400 point total)

Participation/Discussion: 100 pts.

Presentation: 100 pts.

Paper: 100 pts.

Final Exam: 100 pts

Schedule (May be subject to change)

DATE	TOPIC	READING/ ASSIGNMENTS DUE	IN-CLASS
AUG W, 19	Introduction & Course Description: Miranda July		What is pop culture?
W, 26	Miranda July	<i>No One Belongs Here More Than You</i>	<i>Me You and Everyone We Know (91)</i>
SEPT W, 2	Julie Taymor	<i>Life as Art, Art as Life</i>	<i>Frida (123)</i>
W, 9	Sarah Ruhl	<i>The Clean House</i>	Women in theater
W, 16	Catherine Hardwicke	TBD	TBD
W, 23	Guerilla Girls; performance art	ER: <i>Bitches, Bimbos, and Ballbreakers: The Guerrilla Girls' Illustrated Guide to Female Stereotypes</i>	<i>Women artists : the other side of the picture (54)</i>
W, 30	Annie Leibovitz; Cindy Sherman	ER: <i>Annie Leibovitz; Cindy Sherman</i>	Celebrity photographers; <i>Annie Liebovitz Celebrity Photographer</i>
OCT W, 7	Margherita Manzelli; Lesley Dill	<i>Margherita Manzelli; Words that Hang in the Air; Lesley Dill; Lesley Dill's use of language: the artist strings line into letter and letter into text</i>	American and international contemporary art
W, 14	Rachel Portman; Ellen Taaffe Zwilich	ER: Rachel Portman; Ellen Taaffe Zwilich	Great composers
W, 21	Kim Gordon; Madonna	ER: <i>Kim Gordon; Madonna, Time Traveling at Fifty</i>	Pop music icons
W, 28	Class Presentation		
NOV W, 4	Class Presentation		
W, 11	Class Presentation		
W, 18	Class Presentation		
W,25	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING	
DEC W, 2	Final		Final exam