

University of North Carolina- Asheville

SPRING -2007

“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

Arts 310 – 03 ARTS & IDEAS

3hrs

Thursday 6- 8:30 pm

room: CH231

Instructor: Jerry Pope

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

Phone: 686-3922 (my house, call between 9AM & 9 PM, please)

Email: jerry@serpentchild.org (NOTE: I never use Campus e-mail)

Required Texts: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin: A Tale of Life Among the Lowly*, Harriet Beecher Stowe
My Year of Meats, Ruth L. Oseki

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 all disciplines, but will concentrate on paintings, novels, films, music, and plays. The primary work of this class will be group discussion. Students will do individual analyses in essay form. We will have 1-2 guest artists from different disciplines to discuss their work as it relates to our topic. 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.

Course Outline

I. Class Discussion

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. Tests & Quizzes

There will be tests over *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *My year of Meats*. 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. Note: any student who misses half of the questions on a quiz will receive NO

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CREDIT for the quiz. 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 third 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?

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. The content of those papers will be critical essays of art. The first will be of a live performance or public art showing (a play, a concert, an art exhibit, a poetry reading). The second can be a live performance, public art show OR a theatrical presentation of a movie. The third can be any of the above. The essays must be produced in this order. *Be sure to discuss the political aspects of the work.* A ticket stub from any public performance or film must be attached to the paper. If you’re not sure if an event fits this category, check with me.

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.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Two events may be attended beyond the three required events. Well written, typed critical essays (2-3 pages) accompanied with a ticket will earn extra credit ranging from zero to three points added to total points for the term, depending upon the quality of the reviews.

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 hour of unexcused absence.** If you or your child is ill, bring a doctor’s excuse to ensure that you will receive an excused absence. For funerals, bring a church bulletin. Unexcused absences are for minor illnesses (flu, cold, etc). Other non-illness excused

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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 type faces 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%
Quizzes		5%
Tests (UTC, MYOM @ 5% each)		10%
Midterm		5%
Attendance & Participation		30%
Final Project		<u>15%</u>
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:

JANUARY:	18- Syllabus, An Art Event, Vocabulary 25- Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i> (play/video)	
FEBRUARY:	1- Francisco Goya (painter) 8- <i>The Cradle Will Rock</i> (film/play) 15- <i>Degenerate Art</i> (video/art) 22- <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (novel)	1st Response Paper due 1st Critical Essay due Test
MARCH:	1- <i>Do the Right Thing</i> (film) 8- <i>SPRING BREAK</i> 15- Thomas Kinkade (painter) 22- NO CLASS 29- <i>Amandla</i> (video/music)	2nd Response Paper due Hand in Midterm 2nd Critical Essay due
APRIL:	5- <i>My Year of Meats</i> (novel) 12- <i>Philadelphia Story</i> (play) 8pm, CBT 19- TBA 26- <i>A Film of Our Choice</i> (film)	Test 3rd Response Paper due 3rd Critical Essay due 4th Response Paper due
MAY:	3- Reading Day 10- Final (Projects) 6:30 -9	

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