

University of North Carolina- Asheville  
Spring -2009

*"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, poet

**ARTS310016: Art and the Apocalypse** 10455 3hrs Weds 600PM - 830PM KH 005  
Instructor: Jerry Pope [jpope@unca.edu](mailto:jpope@unca.edu) home phone: 686-3922 (after 9am and before 10pm, please)  
Office Hours: Briefly, before and after class. Special meetings by appointment

*Apocalypse ; Apokalypsis - ( Greek ) 1.) literal - an uncovering or unveiling ; to appear. 2.) An act of communicating or revealing divine truth. 3.) Something that is revealed ; especially of an enlightening or astonishing nature. Syn. Revelation - an incredible or enlightening disclosure.*

Required Texts:

*Left Behind: A Novel of the Earth's Last Days (Left Behind No. 1)* by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins  
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

*Y: The Last Man Unmanned (Y: The Last Man, Vol. 1)* by Brian K. Vaughan and Pia Guerra

### **Course Overview**

This section of Arts and Ideas will focus on the way Art has been used to explain and examine the idea of Apocalypse or the End of the World. 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, graphic novels, and films.

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 a study of 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. Demonstrate a knowledge of certain specific works of art and their historical, political, and social context.

### **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. Tests & Quizzes

There will be tests over *Left Behind*, *The Road*, and *Y: the Last Man*. 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. 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. 3 Response Papers

Every fifth class, you will turn in a 2-3-page response to artwork explored in class over the previous three weeks. This is not a summary, it is your opportunity to demonstrate your familiarity and understanding of the material and present your personal perspective; what are your opinions, reactions, questions, and conclusions?

## IV. 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 subject can be a movie, novel, play, the works of a painter, a graphic novel, or video game that treats the End of the World in one of its manifestations; religious, plague, invasion, cosmic, natural, atomic or war, overpopulation, etc. Each paper must critique a work from a different medium. I.e., *Road Warrior*, *The Walking Dead*, and *The Handmaids Tale* (film, graphic novel, novel). If you're not sure a work fits the definition, check with the instructor. Because of the wealth of material available, each student should critique a unique set of works, one that is different from that of other students in the class.

## *SEE ADDENDUM ON CRITICISM*

*LATE PAPERS:* Late papers will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. If accepted, they will be marked off 10 points for each class period that they are late.

*EMAILED PAPERS:* On occasion, the instructor will agree to accept e-mailed papers. This is by permission only. It is the student's responsibility to see that the paper is received. It is recommended that you follow up with a hard copy.

## *A 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. Apocalypse: does it discuss the apocalyptic aspects of the piece?
6. Legibility: does it conform to the presentation requirements listed below?

## V. The Midterm

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

## VI. The Final Project

You will create a work of art that more or less subtly embodies themes surrounding the Apocalypse. This can be in any art form, except collage and powerpoint-type presentations. 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:* 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. **Two points 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 note.

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	(3 at 5% each)	15%
<i>Left Behind</i> Test		5%
<i>Road</i> Test		5%
<i>Y</i> Test		5%
Midterm		10%
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:**

*The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus and schedule.*

January

14 *Syllabus, Texts, Contract, Vocabulary, Critical Writing, Revelation of St John*

*Homework: What do you know about the Apocalypse?*

21 *Ways the World Will End*

28 *Apocalyptic Painting: Hieronymus Bosch & Albrecht Dürer*  
(Last day to Late-Add with Instructor Permission)

**1<sup>st</sup> Critical Essay Due**

February

4 *“On the Beach” -2:14*

11 *“Left Behind”*

**Left Behind Test**

18 *Modernism - Postmodernism*

**1<sup>st</sup> Response Paper Due**

25 *“The Omega Man” – 1:34*

March

4 *Apocalyptic Literature for Children*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Critical Essay Due**

11 *Spring Break*

18 *TBA*

**Midterm**

25 *“Mad Max” – 1:34*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Response Paper Due**

April

1 *“The Road”*

**Road Test**

8 *“12 Monkeys” – 2:10*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Essay Due**

15 *Apocalyptic Graphic Novels*

***Final Project Approved***

22 *“Y: The Last Man”*

**Y Test**

29 *A Zombie Movie*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Response Paper Due**

May

4 *Classes end*

6 **Final Presentations**

18 *Final grades due by noon*

## GROUP CONTRACT GUIDELINES

Below are ground rules for creating a classroom community that engenders a safe space and which reinforces the participation and voices of all members of the group. This is integral to honoring both the diversity of the group and the unique qualities of each individual.

1. **SPEAK** – from your own experience. Use “I” statements.
2. **LISTEN** –to understand. Don’t interrupt.
3. **SHARE** – the air space. Balance talking with listening.
4. **RISK** – new ideas and processes. Challenge and question
5. **DO NOT IGNORE** – do not let an incident pass by without remark. Use the “ouch” signal. Take responsibility for your own feelings when an “ouch” has occurred.
6. **SIGNAL AGREEMENT** – with others by the use of “snaps” instead of repeating what someone else has said.
7. **ACKNOWLEDGE** – positive feelings in yourself and others.
8. **KEEP IT IN THE ROOM** – honor the sharing of others and the difficulty of trust by keeping sensitive information within the room. Don’t gossip or carry tales.

## Vocabulary

Aesthetics  
 Artist  
 Audience  
 Beauty  
 Construct  
 Irony  
 Kitsch  
 Metaphor  
 Modern  
 Numinescent  
 Objective  
 Overt  
 Post-Modern  
 Subjective  
 Subtle

### Aspects of Art

Harmony  
 Balance  
 Variety  
 Movement  
 Line  
 Color  
 Texture

Subject  
 Form (*medium*)  
 Content (*emotional feeling*)

### Differences in Judging Art

Difference in the Process  
 Difference in Culture & Time  
 Difference in Personal Background

### Craft (*functional*)

Pottery  
 Architecture  
 Weaving  
 Glass blowing  
 Woodworking

### Art

#### *A-temporal*

Visual Arts  
     Painting  
     Drawing  
     Printmaking  
     Collage  
 Plastic Arts  
     Sculpture  
 Literature  
     Poetry  
     Drama  
     Prose  
         Novel  
         Short Story  
         Crtv Nnfctn

#### *Performing Arts*

Theater  
     Acting  
     Directing  
     Design  
 Music  
     Composing  
     Lyrics  
     Performing  
 Dance  
 Performance Art

#### *Recorded Performance*

Film  
 Television  
 Music