



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
ART 125	Topics in Contemporary Art	3
Hours: Lecture/Lab/Other 3 Lecture	Co- or Pre-requisite ENG 101 or divisional permission	Implementation Semester & Year Fall 2022

Catalog description:

Exploration of trends and topics in contemporary art from 1945 to the present, involving a diverse range of artists who challenge preconceived notions of the role of art in today's society. Students learn to identify, analyze, and write about art through multi-media presentations, discussions, artists' talks and field trip.

General Education Category: Goal 6: Humanities | **Course coordinator:** Michael Welliver, x3522, wellivem@mccc.edu

Required texts & Other materials:

- Twentieth- Century American Art, Erika Doss, Oxford History of Art
- The Humanistic Tradition: Volume 6: Modernism, Globalism, Gloria K Fiero, McGraw-Hill
- Field trip fee

Information resources:

- Art 21, Season I, II, and III, DVDs, PBS Home Video
- American Visions, VHS 5 tape set, PBS Home Video
- Twentieth-Century American Art, Erika Doss, Oxford History of Art
- The Humanistic Tradition: Volume 6: Modernism, Globalism, and the Information Age, Gloria K Fiero, McGraw-Hill
- Ways of Seeing, John Berger
- Beyond the Brillo Box, Arthur Danto
- Interpreting Art, Terry Barrett
- Various periodicals including: *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Flash Art* and *Contemporary Visual Arts*

Other learning resources:

A group field trip to art exhibitions in NYC will be coordinated

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) :

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze artists, trends, and movements in the 20th century (from 1945-present). [Supports ILG # 1,6,7,8,9,10,11 ; PLO # 1,2,3]
2. Contextualize the art of today within the societies that create it, including cultural and technological influences. [Supports ILG # 1,4,6,7,8,9,10,11 ; PLO # 1,2,3]
3. Gain familiarity with a number of strategies for interpreting art through applied criticism in group discussion. [Supports ILG # 1,6,7,8,9,10,11 ; PLO # 1,2,3]
4. Research, critique, and decode artwork through written and oral presentations, while developing a personal voice as an interpreter. [Supports ILG # 1,4,6,7,8,9,10,11 ; PLO # 1,2,3]
5. Understand the complex motivations behind art being made today, including personal, political, and economic incentives. [Supports ILG # 1,6,7,8,9,10,11 ; PLO # 2]
6. Experience the impact of seeing art in person within a contemporary gallery/museum setting. [Supports ILG # 4,6,7,8,9,10,11 ; PLO # 1,2,3]

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Institutional Learning Goal 4. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

Institutional Learning Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

Institutional Learning Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Visual Arts (PLO)

1. Identify and explain the significant events in the history of art as well as contemporary practices;
2. Discuss and/or integrate different techniques and approaches to art making;
3. Analyze and evaluate artwork verbally and in writing;

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

Unit I **Modern Art [Supports Course SLO # 1,2]**

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify movements and artists of Abstract Expressionism, Hard Edge and Color Field painting.
- Understand post war abstraction and New York's new place in the art world.
- Gain knowledge of the theorists behind the movements, with emphasis on Greenberg.

Unit II **Influence of the 50s-60s [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2]**

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify movements and artists of New Realism & Pop Art Op Art, and Super Realism.
- Analyze issues involving commodity and art.
- Question the role of the artist in society.

Unit III **New Media in the 60's [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,3,4,5]**

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Identify movements and artists of Happenings, Body Art, Performance Art, and Video Art.
- Discuss the connection between performance and the body.
- Organize and participate in a happening.
- Understand the impact of new technology on communication and the arts.

Unit IV **Form and Thought in the late 60's [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,5]**

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Identify movements and artists of Conceptual Art, Minimalism, Heavy Metal, and Land Art.
- Juxtapose ideas of environment, interaction and traditional art viewing.
- Explore the theories behind the art including Sol Lewitt and Robert Smithson.
- Challenge the ideas of authorship and the production of artwork.

Unit V **From the Margins to the Mainstream [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,5]**

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Identify movements and artists of feminist and marginalized art.
- Correlate political and social changes with advances in art.
- Question the canonization of art and its exclusion of certain artists.
- Challenge the myth of the autonomous white male.

Unit VI **Money, Fashion, Politics: The 80's [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,3,4,5]**

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Explore ideas of appropriation.
- Analyze artistic strategies of dealing with identity.
- Examine the relationship between a strong economy and art production.
- Debate ideas of censorship in relation to publicly funded art.

Unit VII Introduction to Pluralism from the 90's –Today [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,5,6]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Explore ideas of pluralism, globalization, and post-modernism.
- Be introduced to artists working today.
- Examine the concept of gallery as white cube.
- Understand the impact of digital and internet technology on the arts.

Unit VIII Gallery Visit [Supports Course SLOs # 1,3,6]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Experience first-hand art in person.
- Learn the “etiquette” or gallery visits and research gathering methods.
- Critically analyze work in the context of today's society.
- Develop strategies for viewing and using published information.

Unit IX The Object vs. Beauty and The Spiritual In Art [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,5]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Identify and analyze art and artists dealing with challenging subject and material.
- Explore the relationship between sensationalism and the art world.
- Analyze ideas of the object in art and question traditional notions of beauty.
- Address and use sexuality in contemporary art.

Unit X Outside the Gallery/Museum as Institution [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,3,5]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Identify and analyze art and artists dealing with installations, new graffiti, outsider, and public art.
- Discuss impact of blockbuster shows on the canonization of art.
- Raise ideas of the museum as a site for cultural critique.
- Explore graffiti and underground art movements as an alternative to mainstream culture.

Unit XI New Photography [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,5]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Identify and analyze a variety of artists working with photography today.
- Question the idea of photograph as fact and the construction of a new reality.
- Examine photography's complex relationship to documentation and marketing.

Unit XII Art as Big Business [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,5]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Identify and analyze a variety of artists working with large budget projects.
- Analyze Hollywood's impact on the production and scale of art.
- Question the role of funding and sponsorship in the creation of art.
- Examine challenging forms of narrative.

Unit XIII Digital Frontiers: Technology and Art [Supports Course SLOs # 1,2,3,6]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Experience interactive projects on the internet.

- Examine the relationship between art and science.
- Understand concepts if 3D animation and computer generate imagery.
- Discuss ideas of accessibility and audience with new media.

Evaluation of student learning:

Students will learn through a journal component featuring written responses to lectures and readings, vocabulary quizzes, identification exams and two additional papers. Grading is based on quality of class participation, exams, written communication, preparedness, and attendance. The following is a breakdown of the final grade by percentage:

Papers (two total)	30%
Exams (two total)	30%
Journal/Homework/Quizzes	30%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Total:	100%

Students will be graded according to the following criteria:

A:

- Meets all course specific objectives
- Outstanding, distinguished participation in class discussions
- Journal is kept up-to-date and shows efforts in preparation and presentation
- Brings to class relevant examples of current cultural phenomena to share with classmates
- Papers are well thought out and reflect depth of understanding
- Observes rules of courtesy and arrives for classes on time
- Demonstrates knowledge of concepts and artists covered through written exams

B:

- Above average, but one of the above criteria is average or below

C:

- Performs all of the requirements to a satisfactory minimum

D:

- Deficient, unsatisfactory

F:

- Failure to meet even minimum requirements