

Art in Columbus: Looking and Responding
Freshman Seminar
Autumn 2008
Fridays 10:30-12:28 AM
Terry Barrett
Department of Art Education
Course credits: 2 S/U

Course Description:

We will communally view and discuss contemporary art, seeking appreciative understandings of that art. The art will often be new to all of us and we will share our views of what it might be about and how it might affect our lives. We will sometimes meet in the classroom and other times we will view works of art in venues on campus, such as the Wexner Center for the Arts, Hopkins Hall Gallery, the Hale Center, and individual artist's studios. We will also visit art spaces in the city, such as the Columbus Museum of Art, OSU's Urban Arts Space, the Riffe Center Gallery, and galleries in the Short North. The places in the city that we visit are easily accessible by city bus, free with your Buck-I-D. The course will introduce you to new art and ways to think about it, and places to see art in Columbus.

Course Instructor:

Dr. Barrett is a Professor of Art Education, recipient of distinguished teaching awards, and author of the course text, *Interpreting Art: Reflecting, Wondering and Responding*. Dr. Barrett's other books include *Criticizing Art: Understanding the Contemporary*, *Criticizing Photographs: An Introduction to Understanding Images*, *Talking About Student Art*, and *Why Is That Art?: Aesthetics and Criticism of Contemporary Art*. He has written many articles and chapters for others' books, has edited journals, and he reviews articles for scholarly journals. He serves as a visiting critic to many universities, and consults with art museums and organizations nationally and internationally.

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Text:

Terry Barrett, *Interpreting Art: Reflecting, Wondering, and Responding*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2006.

Learning Objectives:

To have interesting and informative discussions about recent art.

To learn some approaches to responding to new art.

To become comfortable with the ambiguity of what works of art might mean.

To familiarize you with art venues in Columbus.

Course Assignments:

Write a brief summary (100-200 written words) of each chapter of *Interpreting Art*. In your summary, assume the voice of the author: for example, "Interpretation is..."

Quote one idea from each chapter of *Interpreting Art* that is personally meaningful to you and explain how it might affect your life. Use your own voice: for example, "I think..."

Participate in class activities and discussions.

Grading: S/U

This class is an exploratory class, is pass/fail (S/U), and will be graded on effort and participation. You will earn an "S" grade if you:

- 1) Attend all classes, except for illness and excused absences. Classes that are held off-campus will be dismissed early so that you will be able to make a 12:30 class, if needed.
- 2) Participate in class discussions and activities.
- 3) Respond in writing to each chapter of the course text.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Calendar

(Subject to change based on available art exhibitions.)

Week One. (Meet in the classroom)

Introductions.

Expectations for the course.

View and discuss paintings by René Magritte.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 1, About Interpretation: René Magritte, due next week

Week Two. (Meet in the classroom)

Hear responses to Chapter 1.

View and discuss assorted works of art.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 2, Multiple Interpretations to One Work of Art, due next week

Week Three. (Meet in the classroom, then go to Hopkins Hall Gallery)

Hear responses to Chapter 2.

View and discuss artworks that have caused controversy in recent years.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 3, Interpretation and Judgment: Controversial Art, due next week

Week Four (Meet in the classroom, then go to Hopkins Hall Gallery, 1st floor of Hopkins Hall, on campus)

Hear responses to Chapter 3.

View and discuss the exhibition in the Hopkins Hall Gallery.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 4, Interpretation and Appreciation: Abstract Art, due next week

Week Five (Meet in the classroom, then go the Wexner Center, 15th and High Street, on campus)

Hear responses to Chapter 4.

View and discuss an exhibition in the Wexner Center.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 5, Interpreting Old and Foreign Art, due next week

Week Six (Meet at the Columbus Museum of Art, 480 East Broad Street, downtown Columbus)

Explore the Museum on your own for one-half hour; then meet in the lobby.

View and discuss works in a Museum gallery.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 6, Interpretation and Medium: Photography, due next week

Week Seven (Meet at the Riffe Gallery, 77 South High Street, across from the State Capitol building, downtown)

View and discuss works in the Riffe Gallery.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 7, A Sampler of Interpretations, due next week

Week Eight (Meet at The Mahan Gallery, 1042 North High Street, Short North, south of campus)

View and discuss the exhibition in the Mahan Gallery.

Talk with the owner of the gallery about commercial galleries.

Assignment: Read and respond to Chapter 8, Principles for Interpreting Art, due next week

Week Nine (Meet at OSU's Urban Arts Space, 50 West Town Street, downtown)

View and discuss the exhibition in OSU's Urban Art Space.

Week Ten (Meet in the classroom)

Closure: What did we learn? Is it important?

Course evaluations.