

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	American Studies
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Pop to Present: Themes in Contemporary U.S. Art
Course Code:	AMS 6400
Course Leader:	Alex Seago
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall/Spring/Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

The course is an in-depth critical examination of the major themes in U.S. art from the 1950s until the Present. Key art movements and artists are investigated with reference to the cultural and socio-political milieus within which they emerged. The international influence of key movements and artists is emphasised throughout the course.

Prerequisites: COM 4200

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide a critical historical and cultural framework for the understanding and analysis of late 20th and 21st century U.S. art.
- To provide a critical historical and cultural framework for understanding the international impact of late 20th and 21st century U.S. art.

- To provide a critical historical and cultural framework for understanding the intersections between the creation of U.S. art and other creative activities such as music, performance, design, etc.
- To develop the critical skills with which to analyze, assess, and respond to contemporary art.

Programme Outcomes:

6A(i); 6A(iii), 6A(iv); 6B(iii); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6D(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Registry and found at:
<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the development of key movements and genres in U.S. art since 1945.
- Demonstrate an insight into the ways in which U.S. art influenced and was influenced by art movements in other parts of the world.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse a wide range of primary source material – including work on display in London’s galleries.
- Present research orally in a convincing and accessible manner, demonstrating adaptability to different contexts, audiences, and levels of complexity.
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course

Indicative Content:

- The origins and development of the New York School
- Neo-Dada and the Beat Movement
- Assemblage, Installations & Happenings
- British, U.S. and European Pop Art.
- Pop Art and Pop Design
- Minimalism
- The Vietnam Era – Conceptual Art, Environmental and Political Art
- Feminist Art
- The Black Arts movement
- The Regan Era – The Rise of Postmodernism
- The art market and globalisation

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-style discussions. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning. There will be visits to galleries and museums and events as appropriate.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

IndicativeText(s):

- William C. Agree, *Modern Art in America, 1908-1968*. Phaidon, 2016
- Thomas Crow, *The Long March of Pop : Art, Music & Design. 1930-1995*. Yale University Press, 2014.
- Anne Massey & Alex Seago (eds.) *Pop Art & Design*. Bloomsbury, 2018
- Katy Siegel, *Since 45 : America in the Making of Contemporary Art*, Reaktion, London, 2011

Journals : Studio International; Frieze; Modern Painters; Flash Art International.

Web Sites

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

