

## Art 562 Seminar in Art Criticism

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2006

M-W 3:35-50

**Instructor:** Esther Randall

Esther.Randall@eku.edu

Office: 421 Campbell Bldg.

Phone#:2-1639

Office Hours: 10:00 - 12:00 TR or by appointment

*I am on campus five days a week. If you cannot find me in my office, try the Slide Library, the Gallery or Sculpture Studio*

### **Text Books:**

***Criticizing Art*** Second Edition, Terry Barrett (required)

***The Language of Contemporary Criticism Clarified***, William I. Homer, Sound View Press (required)

**Course Packet** (at the bookstore) (required)

***Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*** (or equivalent)

**Welcome** to Art 562 Seminar in Art Criticism. This is a senior level course in which the study of various topics and problems relate to the student's understanding and critical awareness of the visual arts. This course builds upon the experiences and learning the student has acquired throughout his/her art education, and seeks to integrate that understanding with current art theory in order to foster the continuing development of a critical understanding of the visual arts. The primary goal of the assignments and class activities is to foster the ability to express in verbal form, oral and written, this understanding. Therefore, there are no tests in this course. The students' comprehension of course content will be assessed through the writing assignments and class discussions. The class activities are designed to expose students to current concepts and important contemporary artists, to challenge them to rethink what art is or should involve, and to provoke thought in order that the student comes to a deeper understanding of who he/she is as an artist, and how his/her work fits into the current art environment.

**Course Objectives:** The following objectives of this course are designed to encourage the student to reflect on how his/ her work fits into the pattern of contemporary philosophies of art and ultimately come to a better understanding of what he/she hopes to achieve in art making. The goals of Art 562 are as follows:

- To foster critical thinking about art through examination of pertinent topics related to art theory.
- To facilitate her/his ability to describe, interpret and judge art orally and in writing.
- To guide the student to an understanding of the main issues and problems confronting contemporary artists.
- To encourage students to develop their philosophy of art in relation to the contemporary art environment.

**Course Requirements:** The activities through which we explore the content are centered around class discussions, readings, short papers, major papers and a final research project. The course is divided into the following parts:

- Little Assignments; this includes questions sheets and short paper.
- The three Major Papers: these include the *Description Paper*, The *Interpretation Paper* and the *Judgment Paper*. Each of these will be written

about art found either in the Giles Gallery or a reputable Lexington gallery. EKU Student work is not acceptable.

- The Research Project: Students will select a reputable critic to research in order to write a paper and make a class presentation.
- The Syllabus, Calendar and all Assignments can be found on the Blackboard site. Assignments will still be submitted on paper. You may submit a version in the drop box as back up. **All papers must be typed/processed and stapled. Computers are available at the Crabbe Library and Academic Computing.**

**Grading:** will be based upon class participation, the completion of assignment and attendance. Assignments grades will be calculated on a 200 point scale. Letter grades will be awarded as follows:

A = 184 – 200  
B = 168 – 183  
C = 150 – 167  
D = 130 – 149

**List of assignments and their weight:**

**Little Assignments**

I Hate it#1  
I Hate it#2 .....16pts  
The Reflecting Pool:10 pts  
Chihuly Terms: ..... 6 pts  
Principles of Interpretation:.....8 pts  
Avant Garde& Kitsch:10pts  
End Of Modernism: 8pts  
Multiculturalism:...10pts  
Culture and Craft:..12pts  
Group Criteria: .....6 pts  
**Total:86**

**Big Grades**

Description: 25 pts  
Interpretation: 25 pts  
Judgment: 25 pts  
  
Research: 20 pts  
Presentation: 10 pts  
  
Participation: 9 pts  
**Total: 114**

- Your class calendar will indicate the dates that your major assignments are due. They will be graded and returned in a timely fashion so that you will have feedback on your progress in this course.
- Note that you cannot participate if you do not attend. Therefore, we will strictly observe of the departmental attendance policy of a 15% limit upon absences, which amounts to 4.65 classes. Five or more absences will result in automatic failure. You cannot earn an "A" if you have more than three unexcused absences.
- You will not be graded down for disagreeing with the instructor. A free and lively discussion is the heart of this course. However, You will need more than just your opinion. Your arguments must reference in some way the assigned reading. Additional credit will be given to any wisdom you have gleaned from other art classes, or any reading you have done on your own and.

***If there is any individual in this class who is in need of academic accommodations and who is registered with the office of services for Individuals with Disabilities, please make an individual appointment with the course instruction to discuss accommodations. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in alternative forms. If any individual who is not registered with the office of services for Individual with Disabilities but has need of academic accommodations, please contact the office directly either in person in the new Student Services Building, or by telephone a (859) 622-1500 V/TTY***

Art 562

Seminar in Art Criticism

Fall 06

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
<b>Aug. 21</b> Introduction to Class Read Chapt. 1 & 6 in Barrett	<b>23. I Hate It Paper is Due</b> Read Chapt 3 in Barrett.
28.	30. <b>Description:</b> Read Chapter 3 in Barrett
<b>Sept. 4 NO Class</b>	6. Description Activities
11 . Description Activities	13. <b>Interpretation</b> read Chapter 4 in Barrett
18. Interpretation Activities <b>Description Paper is Due</b>	20. Interpretation Activities
25. Interpretation Activities	27. Interpretation Activities
<b>Oct 2</b>	4. . <b>Theories of Art</b> Read Chapt.s 1 &2 in Barrett and the Introduction and Chapt. 2 in Homer
9.Fall Break	11. <b>Interpretation Paper is Due</b> <b>Modernism</b> Read Chapt.s. 3 &4 in Homer
16 Theories Activities Read <i>Avant Garde and Kitsch</i> in Packet. Answer Questions.	18. Theories Activities
23. Theories Activities Read <i>A Farewell to Modernism</i> in Packet. Complete Blackboard assignment and bring to class	25. Theories Activities Read <i>Dick Nixon Heads</i> in course packets
30. Theories Activities Read pp. 88 –91 in Homer and 43 –62 in Barrett. Complete Blackboard assignment and bring to class	<b>Nov 1.</b> Theories Activities
6. Theories Activities Read <i>Craft and Art, Culture and Biology</i> by Bruce Metcalf in Course Packet	8. Theories Activities
13. Theories Activities	15. Visual Culture
20. <b>Judgment</b> read Chapter 5 in Barrett	22. <b>Turkey Time</b>
27. Judgment Activities	29. Judgment Activities
<b>Dec. 4</b> Presentations	6. Presentations <b>Judgment Paper Due</b>

Exam: 12//06 3:30-5:30

## **Art 762 Seminar in Art Criticism**

3 Credit Hours

**Instructor:** Esther Randall

Esther.Randall@eku.edu

Office: 421 Campbell Bldg.

Phone#:2-1639

Office Hours: 1:00 - 2:00 TR or by appointment

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### **Text Books:**

***Criticizing Art*** Second Edition, Terry Barrett (required)

***The Language of Contemporary Criticism Clarified***, William I. Homer, Sound View Press (required)

**Course Packet** (at the bookstore) (required)

***Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*** (or equivalent)

**Welcome** to Art 762 Seminar in Art Criticism. This is a graduate level course in which the study of various topics and problems relate to the student's understanding and critical awareness of the visual arts. This course builds upon the experiences and learning the student has acquired throughout his/her art education, and seeks to integrate that understanding with current art theory in order to foster the continuing development of a critical understanding of the visual arts. The primary goal of the assignments and class activities is to foster the ability to express in verbal form, oral and written, this understanding. Therefore, there are no tests in this course. The students' comprehension of course content will be assessed through the writing assignments and class discussions. The class activities are designed to expose students to current concepts and important contemporary artists, to challenge them to rethink what art is or should involve, and to provoke thought in order that the student comes to a deeper understanding of who he/she is as an artist, and how his/her work fits into the current art environment.

**Course Objectives:** The following objectives of this course are designed to encourage the student to reflect on how his/ her work fits into the pattern of contemporary philosophies of art and ultimately come to a better understanding of what he/she hopes to achieve in art making. The goals of Art 562 are as follows:

- To foster critical thinking about art through examination of pertinent topics related to art theory.
- To facilitate her/his ability to describe, interpret and judge art orally and in writing.
- To guide the student to an understanding of the main issues and problems confronting contemporary artists.
- To encourage students to develop their philosophy of art in relation to the contemporary art environment.
- To draw connections between the content of the course and the essential content of the graduate student's primary field of study.

**Course Requirements:** The activities through which we explore the content are centered around class discussions, readings, short papers, major papers and a final research project. The course is divided into the following parts:

- Little Assignments; this includes questions sheets and short paper. Because this a “course of opportunity,” which means that we take advantage of current events in the art world, there is no set number of these assignments. Last semester there were six.
- The three Major Papers: these include the *Description Paper*, The *Interpretation Paper* and the *Judgment Paper*. Each of these will be written about art found either in the Giles Gallery or a reputable Lexington gallery. EKU Student work is not acceptable.
- The Research Project: Students will select a reputable critic to research in order to write a paper and make a class presentation.
- Graduate Project: individual graduate students will design with the professor a research project that integrates the student's field of study with an aspect of the course content in either the theory, description, interpretation or the judging of art. The student will make a presentation from that project to the class with the goal of not only drawing connections between the student's discipline, but to educate the rest of the class concerning The graduate student's speciality.
  
- The Syllabus, Calendar and all Assignments can be found on the Blackboard site. Assignments will still be submitted on paper. You may submit a version in the drop box as back up.**All papers must be typed/processed and stapled. Computers are available at the Crabbe Library and Academic Computing.**

**Grading:** will be based upon class participation, the completion of assignment and attendance. Assignments grades will be calculated as follows:

- Short papers and worksheets 40%
- Description, Interpretation and Judgment papers 30%
- Research Project (Papers and Presentation)....20 %
- Class participation 10%

- Your class calendar will indicate the dates that your major assignments are due. They will be graded and returned in a timely fashion so that you will have feedback on your progress in this course.
- Note that you cannot participate if you do not attend. Therefore, we will strictly observe of the departmental attendance policy of a 15% limit upon absences, which amounts to 4.65 classes. Five or more absences will result in automatic failure. You cannot earn an "A" if you have more than three unexcused absences.
- You will not be graded down for disagreeing with the instructor. A free and lively discussion is the heart of this course. However, You will need more than just your opinion. Your arguments must reference in some way the assigned reading. Additional credit will be given to any wisdom you have gleaned from other art classes, or any reading you have done on your own and.

## Grading System

Grade	Letter	Numerical
A	3.8 – 4.0	90 – 100
B	3.0 – 3.79	80 - 89
C	2.0 – 2.9	70 - 79
D	1.0 – 1.9	60 – 69

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