

# Issues in Contemporary Art Art 315 - 10

## University of Delaware Fall 2015

Location: Recitation Hall (Room 101)  
Days: Thursdays  
Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Course Website: [avega-315.weebly.com](http://avega-315.weebly.com)

Instructor:  
**Anthony Vega**

E-mail: [avega@udel.edu](mailto:avega@udel.edu)

Office Hours – by appointment  
Location – Recitation Hall room 206

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has four objectives:

- Develop an understanding and relationship to a contemporary art practice in context
- Achieve a comfort with critical evaluation and dialogue around contemporary art
- Explore social, technological, cultural and individual positions of contemporary art, theorists and artists
- Write clearly and effectively about your position and opinion on issues of contemporary art, backed by meaningful research

To be clear, this course will be heavy on philosophical questioning, theory, elements of sociology and social issues around our current relationship to contemporary art. It is not a “how to” course or a course filled with stock answers. The intention is that the course gives you insight into important questions and an awareness of art and social contexts.

### BASIC PREMISE AND APPROACH

My goal for you in this course is to create an awareness and opinion of contemporary art, informed by history, dialogue around current issues of art, theory, accessibility and pertinence, grounded in critical thinking. The basic premise is that contemporary art is a necessary component in our society and a meaningful dialogue is imperative and attainable to all of us, artists and non-artists. Dialogue, critical thinking and writing about art in contemporary society, is applicable across disciplines and professional intentions and is a unique and potentially defining (or at least potentially interesting) component of a successful citizen. The application of the conversation in this course reaches far beyond conversation about art

The approach is to read, listen to my lectures about the content, discuss, research and finally write about your opinions . The successful application of the material occurs through curiosity, critical thinking, honest engagement in the community we create and diligent investigation.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

Throughout the course we will discuss assigned readings and watch or listen to content that supports our themes and concepts. Each class will be devoted to a topic or series of topics and will connect with the objectives of the previous conversations. The intention is that while this is a lecture course group dialogue and discussion will be the norm. You are expected to come to class on time. You are expected to complete assigned research and be prepared to discuss those points in our discussions, projects and papers.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be given to explore the content. It is expected that all assignments be completed ON TIME and finished. Late and unfinished assignments will lower your grade by one letter per day. A completion date will be given for all assignments.

## PARTICIPATION

It is expected that you will come to class on time and ready to discuss the readings and content. The time spent and community created in a course like this is necessary to understand the material. Your focus is essential in generating helpful discussion and a meaningful class. Clicker Participation, “Not-my work” Contributions, article contributions and class participation will be, 20% your grade.

## A NOTE ON CONTENT

In this course we will engage and discuss potentially and intentionally offensive material. Please know that the nature of issues in contemporary art, at this level includes a necessary conversation of race, gender, identity, sex, history ect. in standard and highly charged and targeted ways. Your continued enrollment in this course is considered an acknowledgement of this issue and indicates a commitment to engaging the course material and class discussion. It is not my intention to alienate anyone, or any viewpoint by including this content, it is meant to illustrate the material and the discussion to be inclusive to all.

## GRADING

10% - Class Participation in discussions, feedback to presentations and preparation around readings

20% - Miscellaneous Assignments – iClicker Participation, “Not-my work” Contributions and Article Contributions

30% - Paper 1 - Gallery Comparison at least 3 pages of text

40% - Final paper – Research and Topic Based – at least 8 pages of text

## GRADE BREAKDOWN

A = Outstanding. A student that goes substantially beyond requirements offers insightful and constructive contributions and is engaged at the highest levels. Writing that is clear, fully considered, investigated and complete to the highest level possible. All assignments completed on time. A- is a grade option as well

B = Above Average. A student that goes moderately beyond requirements, offers insightful and constructive contributions and is engaged each day. Writing that is fully considered, reasonably clear, investigated and complete at a high level. All assignments completed on time. B+ and B- are grade option as well

C = Average. All assignments done competently and completed on time. Average investigation of concepts. Moderate contributions. C+ and C- are grade option as well

D = Marginal Work. Late projects, limited investigation of ideas, incoherent writing. Limited contributions to the course.

F = Unsatisfactory Work. Course failure due to minimal idea development, disjointed writing, lack of participation, late assignments, or excessive absences.

## MORE ON ASSESMENT AND EVALUATION

Response to art/ design can be a very personal experience. It may be difficult to see another point of view or accept outside thoughts on these topics. That being said, we can learn from ANY relevant feedback and point of view, and it is important to know that the discussions we have are NOT an attack on you and our comments are always respectful and honest.

That said, your grade will not be based on whether I agree with your position, but on your clarity, use of correct language, scope and research. Have your work be complete, use the content and language from the course and explore deeply the authors and ideas.

If you have a concern, question or wish to discuss where you stand in the class please feel free to contact me.

Assignments will be evaluated by this criteria:

DIRECTIONS - Did you complete the assignment within the parameters set and follow all guidelines

REFERENCES– clear and coherent use of referencing content, use of citations and links to articles from the course and research

CLARITY– Level of completion and use of clear and thoughtful writing to convey a complete refined position around your thoughts

STRENGTH OF THOUGHT- Clarity of intention, ideas and overall depth of investigation

USE OF CORRECT LANGUAGE – How evident is the use of correct terminology from what we have discussed in the course

CLOSING – Strength and clarity of the work closing

## ATTENDANCE

Due to the intensity and frequency of the course attendance should be 100%. Even one absence can cause a significant amount of course content to be missed. If missing a class is unavoidable **any work or information missed due to absence is your responsibility**; you may, and should, call or e-mail another student, if they have agreed to this, to find out what you need to do for the next class.

You are allowed to miss 2 days of class without an excuse. On your 3rd unexcused absence your grade will be lowered by one letter step. An unexcused absence is a day that you elect to not come to class, due to non-serious sickness or other reason. Over 7 unexcused absences will be an automatic failure of the course.

Being to class on time ensures that as a group we can learn from each other, respect the course and each other's time. Tardiness over 15 minutes will count as a half absence. Also, leaving class early or for extended periods of time will count as a half absence.

## FACILITIES

Be mindful of others that use this space in addition to you. Keep the room clean; remove trash from your area and floor after each class. You are permitted to bring food into the class, just be mindful of the others in the room and cleanliness.

## USE OF DEVICES

Please, do not use electronic devices in class unless we are using them for work. This includes text messaging. If there is an emergency please take the call outside.

## **SECOND WRITING REQUIREMENT**

Second-writing courses require in-depth investigation toward the improvement of writing skills. Proposals and rough drafts may be required in advance of some papers, followed by individual meetings with the instructor. After these meetings the paper will be re-written and a final version submitted. NOTE: a re-write of the final version may be required. To further assist your writing success in this course the use of the University Writing center is highly encouraged.

Due dates for each stage of the writing process are included in the course schedule and applicable meetings will be scheduled in class. Use MLA formatting, however use, 1.5 spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1.25 inch margins on the whole document for all text submissions. Cover page is not required.

## **PLAGIARISM AND HONESTY**

It goes without saying you must submit your own work and if you use sources in any assignment you should properly cite the origin. If there is any indication of a misuse of text or direct plagiarism all necessary and proper follow-up will be made, including the possibility of course failure.

## **DISABILITIES**

If any extenuating circumstance exists that I should know about, such as, requiring special assistance (including those affected by Americans with Disabilities Act) let me know how I can help to make the classroom or the things I am teaching more accessible. I cannot make changes if I do not know that they need to be made.

## **MATERIALS**

There is no textbook for this course. All reading will be available on our course website. You will be required to use an iClicker for this course. All readings will be on the course website: [avega-315.weebly.com](http://avega-315.weebly.com). You are expected to read all articles assigned prior to attending class.

All assignments unless otherwise noted will be submitted electronically and typed. Please include your first and last name in the file name if applicable as well as your full name and title of the assignment in the header of the text. Assignments will be submitted via our Sakai course page.

Additionally, I will not be posting or making available my keynotes or notes from lecture. It is your responsibility to listen and take notes of the ideas you find compelling in the course.