



ART/BAMS 324 FALL 2015  
**THE ART OF SOCIAL CHANGE** PROFESSOR COLETTE GAITER

COURSE OUTLINE +  
INFORMATION

*Art (at its best) can create a space to dream collectively - bringing people together in a space they don't occupy in everyday life.*

— A Blade of Grass Foundation.

Nurturing socially engaged art.

<http://www.abladeofgrass.org/>

**DESCRIPTION:** 20th century international social change artists' works are examined from Art, Design, Sociology, and Behavioral Science perspectives.

**CLASS MEETS:** T Th 3:30 - 4:45 pm. Memorial Hall 110

**OFFICE HOURS:** 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Tuesday and Thursday  
Recitation Hall room 206

**E-MAIL:** [cgaiter@udel.edu](mailto:cgaiter@udel.edu). Please allow adequate time for a response.

**COURSE STRUCTURE:** Short lectures and presentations, seminar and small group-style discussions, readings, real time and virtual interactions with artists' works. Early readings, short papers and discussions provide groundwork for completing the larger class projects.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. examine the interdisciplinary contexts behind a variety of social change art works from 20th century liberation movements to the present
2. conduct independent research and report on additional works, people, and projects not covered in class
3. begin exploring the behavioral science practice of survey preparation.
4. learn methods for improving writing skills
5. understand issues of creative production by making a simple poster from original research. Create an artwork even if you are not an "artist."

**TEXTBOOK:**

*Education for Socially Engaged Art* - Pablo Helguera. There is a copy on reserve in the library.

There will be other readings posted on Sakai.

The assigned readings are essential to understanding the political, social, and historical contexts around the works we are discussing. Please read thoroughly. The class's success depends on your participation and familiarity with the topics through reading. I have chosen readings that are accessible and do not require specialized knowledge in art or any other area.

**CLASS PRESENTATIONS:** The Keynote presentations will be online by noon the day after class in PDF format. If they are not, email me immediately.

**Please honor the copyright of these presentations. If I find that any of the class presentations have been copied and posted elsewhere, I will stop providing them.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Writing assignments will be in the separate class schedule, PDF files for the presentation and/or posted on Sakai.

You will turn in most assignments word processed in **HARDCOPY AND DIGITALLY ON SAKAI**. This is to ensure that nothing is lost and expedites grading

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAFARI DOES NOT WORK WELL WITH SAKAI. Use Firefox.

**Be sure to include your last name AND THE ASSIGNMENT NAME in the file name of any uploaded document.**

Emailed assignments will not be accepted except in extreme situations.

**PROJECTS AND WRITING:**

**1. Writing assignments**

Short (250 OR 500 word) critical response/reflecting writing assignments based on readings and work shown in class **(2500 words total)**

**Approximately 10 graded writing assignments. Total words written will be the required 3000 or slightly over. Some assignments will be longer than others.**

**2. Visual project**— Research and create a simple poster for the People's History Project featuring a social change agent or initiative that is not currently well known. You will do research and write the poster copy in two parts.



**Part A**

1. Research and draft poster copy
  2. Final poster copy
- (about 500 words total)**

**Part B** - You will turn in:

1. Rough sketches of ideas
2. Comprehensive (more finished) sketch
3. Final printed poster

**Each step will be graded**

There will be in-class workshops on writing, research methods, and simple graphic production for the poster, assistance with poster production one on one in the computer lab.

**PARTICIPATION (WORTH 40 POINTS OF FINAL GRADE).  
TO GET THE FULL 40 POINTS YOU WILL:**

1. contribute to class discussions and group work
2. miss no more than three classes without a verified excuse and be on time
3. be prepared to work productively in class on workdays
4. take responsibility for understanding assignments when given, ask questions in class instead of through email later
5. not use personal internet, check your phone, text or talk inappropriately during presentations or interactive group times in class

- ✓ + 40 points (100% A) Excellent
- ✓ 32 points (80% B-) Fair/average
- ✓ - 24 points (60% D) Really not very good...

**Missing more than three classes without excuses=0 participation points**

**GRADING**

**For each assignment, you will receive comments and one of four possible grades**

- ✓ + 20 points (100% A) Excellent
- ✓ 16 points (80% B-) Fair/average
- ✓ - 12 points (60% D) Really not very good...

**Not turned in or completely unsatisfactory=0 points**

Detailed rubric on writing distributed separately. See below for policy on excused late assignments.

You can know your exact percentage at any given time by using the equation:

total points earned/total possible = x/100.

Example: After three assignments you have 56/60=93/100 A-

You will get a grade at midterm, then a final one at end of class.

**GRADE SCALE**

A	95 - 100%
A-	90 - 94
B+	88 - 89
B	83 - 87
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66
D-	60 - 62
F	59 and below

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is expected at all class sessions.

Lateness (more than 10 minutes) and unexcused absences will affect your final grade (see participation rubric above.)

Documentation is required to have an absence excused and any assignment due accepted late without penalty. Your privacy will always be protected and you can work with a university counselor to communicate your situation discretely if required.

Please notify me in advance if you know you will not be able to attend class. You are responsible for finding out what you missed in class through Sakai and classmates and keeping up with readings and assignments.

If you miss a project or writing deadline without a prior arrangement or emergency, your grade will be zero.

**Excused late work must be turned in within one week of the original due date.**



**DISCLAIMER:** *\*\*Most of the work we will be looking at comes from leftist ideology and liberation movements. You will not be forced to agree with any ideology or point of view. We will remain objective in looking at the work. Part of the interesting challenge of the course is to look at the work from different perspectives. When you do your own writing and projects, you can question and disagree with the work's ideologies, as long as the research and analysis are sound and objective. You will have opportunities to express your personal opinions in writing and in class.*

*The class will work best if everyone feels free to voice their opinions and stays respectful. We can disagree amicably and remain rigorous in our critical thinking.*

*I will try to remember to warn you about potentially offensive material. If you find something offensive, raise your hand and let me know.*

**CLASS FACEBOOK GROUP:** Students often email me links to videos, articles, etc that relate to class. With a FB group, everyone can share. Feel free to comment and post as much as you like. Please stay on the course topics and be respectful.

Go to "Art4Lib" group and ask to join.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Please discuss with me any accommodations you need for participating fully in the class. I receive notices, but need to know exactly what you need.

**OFFICE HOURS:** I encourage you to stop by during office hours to discuss anything about the class or to get help with assignments. No appointment needed. To ensure a meeting at a specific time, make an appointment via email.

Before you send an email question, look in your notes, on the assignment sheet and on Sakai for the answer.

**The following descriptions detail the criteria for earning grades. Plus and minus grades fall between the straight letter grades in achievement.**

**A** Work goes **FAR** beyond completing the requirements of the assignment and shows **UNUSUAL** mastery of the skills and **INNOVATIVE** and **CREATIVE** thinking.

**B SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE LEVEL NECESSARY TO MEET COURSE REQUIREMENTS. A "B" IS A VERY GOOD GRADE,** but not outstanding.

**C AVERAGE** achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect, but does not go beyond. A "C" is a **RESPECTABLE** grade to achieve in a class, especially if the subject matter is outside of your major areas of interest.

**D WORTHY OF CREDIT** even though it fails to satisfactorily meet the course requirements. Basically, it means that you squeaked by...

**F** Signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is **NOT WORTHY OF CREDIT** or (2) was **not completed** or there was **NO AGREEMENT** between the instructor and the student for an alternate arrangement.

A student can turn in work, attend class and still fail the course if the work is **NOT WORTHY OF CREDIT** according to the clearly stated criteria for passing work. The F carries 0 (ZERO) grade points and the credits for the course do not count toward any academic degree program. The credit hours for the course will count in the grade point average.

**I INCOMPLETE.** Assigned **AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR** when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Student must have been passing the course before the emergency incident. Requires a written agreement between the instructor and student specifying the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements.



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Anyone willing to make a sincere effort can pass this class. There are resources available for assistance, including the writing center. The first step is to let me know that you need help or follow my recommendation to get outside help. The second is to follow through on doing the work.

**ASSIGNMENTS NOT TURNED IN BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS PERIOD AFTER THEY ARE DUE WILL RECEIVE AN “F” WITHOUT A PRIOR ARRANGEMENT. THERE IS ALSO A PENALTY FOR LATENESS. SEE GRADING RUBRIC FOR MORE DETAILS**

**KEEP TRACK OF YOUR GRADES THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER ON SAKAI. “Negotiating” for better grades after they are posted at the end of the semester puts an unfair burden on professors as we are busy with grading. Please bring up grade problems while there is more time to consider them. I encourage you to discuss your grades with me at any time.**

**\*\*\*\*\*The requirements and objectives are clearly stated on assignment sheets. This is the criteria you will be graded on. If you are not clear about the criteria or what you will be graded on, please ask during class when the assignment is given.**

**Sep 15** Tuesday

Last day to register or to add courses. After this date tuition and a \$25 processing fee will be charged for change of registration; students withdrawing from courses will receive a grade of ‘W’ on permanent record.

**IF YOU NEED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COURSE, BE SURE TO DO SO BEFORE THE DEADLINE. FAILURE TO WITHDRAW ON TIME WILL RESULT IN AN F IF YOU STOP ATTENDING AND DOING WORK.**

**Oct 27** Tuesday

Last day to change registration or to withdraw from courses.

*\*Migration butterfly image created by Favianna Rodriguez and others.*