



Bisa Butler, *The Safety Patrol* (detail), 2018. Cotton, wool, and chiffon; appliquéd and quilted. The Art Institute of Chicago.



Sarah Anne Johnson, *Hospital Hallway*, 2015. Video still from a 15-channel performance installation.



Ai Weiwei, *Coca-Cola Vase*, 1997. Neolithic vase and paint. André Stockamp & Christopher Tsai collection, Ancram, New York.



Felix Gonzalez-Torres, *Untitled (L.A.)*, 1991. Green candies individually wrapped in cellophane, endless supply. Art Bridges & Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

COURSE INFORMATION

course name: ART 4394 & ART 5394 Contemporary Issues

meeting days, time, and location: Monday & Wednesday, 11:00–12:25 pm, ARC Rm 114

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

name: Dr. Joanna Matuszak

office location: ARC 117

office telephone number: 903-566-7398

e-mail address: jmatuszak@uttyler.edu

office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 4:00–5:30 pm and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION from the Course Catalog

Contemporary Issues is a course concerned with art from approximately 1960 until the present. The objective is to acquaint students with key concepts, critical theories and processes related to contemporary art. Students will also learn about the work of contemporary artists and global venues that display contemporary art.

REQUIRED READINGS for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

	<p>Amy Dempsey. <i>Styles, Schools and Movements: The Essential Encyclopaedic Guide to Modern Art</i>. New & Expanded ed. Thames & Hudson, 2010.</p>		<p>Jean Robertson and Craig McDaniel with contribution by Scott Contreras-Koterbay. <i>Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art After 1980</i>. 5th ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.</p>		<p>Additional readings and/or links to films will be posted in Canvas.</p>
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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**HISTORICAL IDENTIFICATION:**

Students will be able to identify historical periods and stylistic development of significant artworks from the canon of historical periods customary in Western or Non-Western traditions.

INTERPRETATION OF ARTWORKS:

Students will be able to interpret works of art from formal or conceptual perspectives.

ANALYSIS USING ART HISTORICAL THEORY:

Students will be able to apply art historical theory to an analysis of works of art.

SYNTHESIZE KNOWLEDGE:

Students will be able to synthesize historical knowledge to incorporate different perspectives into their scholarship.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH METHODS: Students will be able to conduct basic scholarly research utilizing standards and methods of the discipline.

GRADUATE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**HISTORICAL IDENTIFICATION:**

Students will be able to demonstrate a mastery of historical identification, including major art styles, personal artistic styles of key artists, significant movements, and important trends throughout various historical periods of American, European, or non-Western art.

EVALUATE SCHOLARSHIP: Students will be able to analyze and compare theoretical methodologies and scholarly perspectives when evaluating the literature of the discipline.

ANALYSIS USING ART HISTORICAL THEORY:

Students will be able to analyze works of art works from multiple theoretical perspectives.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH METHODS:

Students will be able to conduct advanced scholarly research utilizing standards and methods of the discipline.

ORIGINAL SCHOLARLY RESEARCH: Students will be able to construct inquiry-based theories that build upon existing research of the discipline to create original research.

GRADE CATEGORIES AND THEIR PERCENTAGE WEIGHT IN THE FINAL GRADE

1.	Class Participation: Answering the instructor's questions and participating in class discussions. It requires reading texts assigned as homework. Graduate students: End-of-semester presentations by graduate students on a book of the student's choice.	15%
2.	Weekly Reports on material covered in class (by Thursday, 11:59 pm, weekly, Canvas)	15%
3.	In-Class Group Presentation: Comparison and analysis of two reviews devoted to two exhibitions of the group's choice from Glasstire online art magazine	10%
4.	Annotated Bibliography with sources relevant to the exhibition the student is reviewing	15%
5.	Advanced Draft of the Exhibition Review	20%
6.	Peer Review of the Advanced Draft of Exhibition Review	5%
7.	Exhibition Review (final version). It will be submitted to <i>Glasstire</i> for review and possible publication.	20%

GRADING SCALE

A 90-100%	B 80-89%	C 70-79%	D 60-69%	F 0-59%
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COURSE ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Participation in class discussions is graded after each class session. To ensure active participation in the discussions students need to read all assigned texts/watch assigned films.

Graduate students: Their participation grade requires reading and presenting on a book of their choice, by a single author, related to the course topic and approved by the instructor.

Presentations will take place during the final examination week.

Weekly Reports: By Thursday 11:59 pm, students submit in Canvas a one-page report on what they learnt in that week's classes. Instructions will be posted in Canvas. This is a low-key writing assignment in which students recapitulate what they remember from the week's classes and what, if anything, was unclear. The other goal of this assignment is for students to get into a rhythm of writing about art in an intelligent way, following standards of good writing in English language and practicing basic requirements of Chicago Manual of Style. If time permits in the following week, the instructor will address issues that came up in students' reports, preserving students' anonymity. This will help all students to avoid similar mistakes in their future writing assignments and continue employing good writing models.

Group Presentation: Students will form groups of two or three undergraduate *and* graduate students. Each group will prepare a presentation in which they compare and analyze two exhibition reviews of their choice from [Glasstire](#). The group needs to choose the exhibition reviews at least one week in advance so that fellow students have time to read and prepare for the discussion.

Peer Reviews: Each student will be asked to review a draft of the Exhibition Review written by the classmate. Peer reviews will be submitted in Canvas and graded.

Exhibition Review: It is a scaffolded semester-long assignment. You will work on it in stages throughout the semester, submitting Annotated Bibliography, a draft, and the final text of the review. We are collaborating with Glasstire who will review final exhibition reviews and consider the best one for a publication. Your task is to choose an art exhibition of an artist (solo exhibition) which you just attended or will attend shortly and write an exhibition review.

Graduate students must demonstrate a master's level quality of writing that integrates history, analysis and contemporary scholarship into their own assessment of art and art history.

Originality of thought is required.

Annotated Bibliography: It will consist of scholarly sources relevant to the exhibition the student is reviewing. No late submission is accepted. The Annotated Bibliography needs to be in

[the Chicago Manual of Style](#) (CMOS). More guidance about CMOS can be found at the [Muntz Library webpage](#).

All students: For help with writing, consult the [Writing Center](#) services.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

No late submission of any of the assignments is accepted.

No extensions on any assignment will be offered in this course.

Attendance: Regular attendance is required at all class meetings. Frequent absences will lower the class participation grade.

If a student missed a class, it is their responsibility to find out what was covered and announced during the missed class—not by asking the instructor but through their own means—including but not limited to checking the class schedule in the syllabus, consulting other students, watching assigned films, reviewing the PowerPoint presentation, and reading the assigned material.

- 1 class absence will be dropped from your grade. This 1 absence can be used for personal emergencies.

Canvas: Students are required to check Canvas course site's Announcements daily before coming to class.

Classroom Etiquette: The class period lasts 85 minutes. Please plan accordingly as most days there will be no break.

Electronic devices must not be used in class for reasons other than related to the class.

College Email Etiquette: Email correspondence with the instructor is a professional correspondence and needs to adhere to certain standards.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>

To receive the instructor's response, please adhere to the following:

1. send an email to the instructor via Inbox on Canvas,
2. include a clear subject line,
3. use formal salutation such as, "Dear Dr. Matuszak" or "Dear Professor Matuszak,"
4. identify yourself and your course. Include specific information, such as the name of the assignment, and give details pertaining to your question.
5. write in complete and coherent sentences. Make sure there are no grammatical and spelling errors. Be clear and succinct.

6. follow common courtesy and sign off with a “Thank you” and your full name.

Individual study time: After each class, plan on spending about three hours to review notes and do the assigned homework. One “credit hour” is approximately an equivalent of one hour of classroom instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week. Useful resources are listed at the [Library Research Guide for Art](#). Credible sources of information on the Internet include, for example, art museum websites, auction houses’ videos, and [smartarthistory](#) website.

Academic Integrity: All cheating and/or plagiarism will be treated with the utmost severity as per UT Tyler policy. Using artificial intelligence (A.I.), such as CHAT GPT (or any other AI chatbot), is considered plagiarism as it is not your own work. **DO NOT USE A.I.! THIS COURSE IS INTENDED TO DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING AND RESEARCH SKILLS – THEREFORE YOU NEED TO DO THE WORK YOURSELF!** Please consult [Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs](#), Chapter 8. “Student Conduct and Discipline” for university regulations regarding academic dishonesty. According to Subchapter 8-800:

b. "Academic Dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable, in whole or in part, to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to: submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act.

2. "Plagiarism" is the appropriation of material that is attributable, in whole or in part, to another source without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirement(s).

“Find it. Write it. Cite it.”: It is unacceptable to copy something out of a book, newspaper, journal, Internet site or any printed source without citing your source. The most blatant example of this is directly copying something word for word. It does not matter if it is only a phrase. If it is not yours, you must either not use it or place it in quotes and reference it.

If you paraphrase another person’s words or ideas, you still must cite them as a source. Do not put a paraphrase in quotes, but be sure to give the author’s name, the text, and the page where you found the idea. For citing sources in this course use [The Chicago Manual of Style: Notes and Bibliography system](#).

Student Resources and University Policies: Please see the "Student Resources and Universities Policies Module" on our Canvas course site for links to the full list of student resources and university policies.

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.