

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES		
TERM: FALL 2014	COURSE NO: AHIS 330	
INSTRUCTOR: TBA	COURSE NAME: ART AND TRAUMA	
OFFICE: LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:		
OFFICE HOURS: TBA		

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional fourth hour delivered through on-line or other activities as determined by the instructor, for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100 level or higher course work, including six AHIS credits at the 100 or 200 level.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Using PowerPoint lectures, seminar-style discussions of readings, and assignments, participants in this course will examine how art attempts to represent social, national, political, and individual trauma. Looking at case studies from Medieval times to the present, theories about the body are raised, as well as questions about how various political groups buttress their power through threat and the spectacle of violence, how artists respond to instances of torture, genocide, war, and disease, and the range of spectator responses to difficult and gruesome images.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand and articulate the complex meaning systems of art objects that deal with traumatic subject matter;
- responsibly view and discuss images/objects from a variety of points of view informed by ethical imperatives;
- articulate the variety of roles played by images in the maintenance of power or in its undermining;
- place images within their thematic categories and the appropriate social contexts to better understand traumatic subjectivity.

COURSE WEBSITE:

<http://moodle.capilanou.ca>

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Selections will be chosen from the following list of texts:

Alexander, Jeffrey. *Trauma: A Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity, 2012.

Baer, Ulrich. *Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2005.

Bennett, Jill. *Empathic Vision: Affect, Trauma, and Contemporary Art*. Palo Alto:

- Stanford University Press, 2005.
- Broderick, Mick, and Antonio Traverso, eds. *Trauma, Media, Art: New Perspectives*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010.
- Caruth, Cathy, ed. *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.
- Leys, Ruth. *Trauma: A Genealogy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- Luckhurst, Roger. *The Trauma Question*. New York and London: Routledge, 2008.
- Scarry, Elaine. *The Body in Pain*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Spiegelman, Art. *Maus: A Survivor's Tale, Parts I & II*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1985.

COURSE CONTENT:

Note: this course is arranged as a series of case studies. The following is just one example of such a grouping. Instructors might begin in ancient times or include Egyptian or Mayan civilizations. The result would be a different set of case studies within the rubric of art and trauma.

(A more detailed description of each week's topics and themes and the accompanying textbook readings, as well as assignments, can be found on the course Moodle site.)

WEEK 1	Torture and Power: Medieval Hell and Torment
WEEK 2	Policing the Normative: Hunting Heretics and Witches
WEEK 3	Dissecting Knowledge: The Anatomical Theatre
WEEK 4	Fear and Control: The Spectacle of Public Execution
WEEK 5	Possession and Power: Slavery / SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE
WEEK 6	Dismembered, Disfigured, and Disabled: W.W.I Veterans
WEEK 7	MIDTERM (in class)
WEEK 8	Testimonies and Witnessing: the Holocaust
WEEK 9	The Bomb: Hiroshima and Nagasaki
WEEK10	Global Crises: Terrorism, War, Torture
WEEK 11	Art as Therapy: Art and Illness
WEEK 12	Presentation of Final Projects
WEEK 13	Presentation of Final Projects / FINAL PROJECTS DUE
WEEK 14	FINAL EXAM WEEK
WEEK 15	FINAL EXAM WEEK

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Progress with the learning outcomes are accessed using the following tools: an in-class midterm, a short assignment and a final research project which must be presented to the class. A participation grade takes into account involvement in class discussions of the readings.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Short Assignment	25%
Midterm Exam (in class)	25%
Final Project (research paper)	25%
Final Project Presentation	15%
Participation (attendance and involvement in group discussions, in which students rotate responsibility for presenting the readings)	10%

Total	100%
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GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken. Failure to attend classes regularly will inevitably result in poor grades.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be penalized 2 points per week unless permission is requested from the instructor in advance.

Missed Exams: Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor).

English Usage: It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor, and generally only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and laptops and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.