

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES		
TERM: FALL 2015	COURSE NO: AHIS320	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE NAME: Art, Activism, and Citizenship	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
OFFICE HOURS:		

COURSE FORMAT:

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

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including six credits of 100 or 200-level AHIS.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Dissent and art go hand-in-hand, but how are art and activism related? What are the intersections between visual culture, politics, citizenship, and social justice issues? What is the role of imagery in citizen or community formation and human rights activism today? This is a significant question given our era's technological communication tools, which have changed how grassroots organizing occurs and how individuals rise up to challenge their governments. All political leaders and popular movements use imagery to sway public opinion. While dominant groups frequently use representation to legitimate power and suppress contrary points of view, marginalized groups often use representation to make their interests visible and to have their voices heard.

This class examines cases of art activism from the mid-20th C to the present and uses a variety of readings to shape understanding of both the historical and contemporary issues in relation to art production: war and conflict, poverty and homelessness, gender, race, community and identity politics, the environment and climate change, neo-liberalism, technological change, corporate capitalism and globalization.

The material in the course is presented as a series of power point lectures. Questions will be posted to Moodle regularly and all students must have done the assigned weekly readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. All students will be required to work in groups and be responsible for summarizing and presenting the readings to the rest of the class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- demonstrate a broad understanding of how art intervenes in local and global cultural dialogues, shapes perceptions about political issues, and enables transformations in beliefs and actions (demonstrated in the research think pieces)
- utilize an acquired specialized vocabulary to describe and interpret artworks verbally and in writing (demonstrated in class discussion of the readings and in the final exam)

COURSE WEBSITE:

A Moodle site accompanies the class and students are expected to check it regularly for messages, assignments, relevant links and suggestions for further readings. (Enrolment Key: ACTION)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Cronin, J. Keri and Kirsty Robertson, eds. *Imagining Resistance: Visual Culture and Activism in Canada*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2011.
- Reed, T.V. *The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle*. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2005.

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Will be available either as links or files on the Moodle site or will be sent out via the class e-mail list.

COURSE CONTENT:

Topics roughly correspond to the weeks of the term, while allowing for adaptability in terms of student progress through the material. More details for each week and a list of accompanying assignments, links, additional references, a glossary, and textbook readings can be found on the Moodle site. Always defer to the Moodle site for the most up-to-date information.

**Topic 1 Introduction to Activism and Visual Culture
Issues Surrounding Art and Protest****Topic 2 The Civil Rights Movement / The Black Panther Party****Topic 3 Feminist Interventions****Topic 4 Colonialism and Post-Colonialism****Topic 5 Apartheid****READING BREAK - NO CLASS****Topic 6 Mural Projects**

Topic 7 Queer Theory/Queer Politics/AIDS Activism

Topic 8 Censorship

Topic 9 Contesting/Co-opting Surveillance Culture

Topic 10 Art and Environmentalism

Topic 11 Democracies/Multiculturalism/Globalization

Topic 12 Contemporary Protest

Weeks XIV, XV Exam Period.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments will consist of three short research think pieces and a final slide exam in class. A participation grade will be assigned for attendance and involvement in class discussions.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Three Research Think Pieces (20% each)	60%
Final Slide Exam In Class	30%
Participation (5 for attendance, 5 for discussion of 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 grade), 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 two points per week, unless a formal extension is given in advance of the deadline. An extension is given only under exceptional circumstances, usually requiring a doctor's note.

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. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, laptops) may be used during an exam. During class, please turn off all cell phones. Laptops can be used for note-taking purposes only.

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