

Course Overview  
ART 615: Art Analysis & Criticism  
Department of Art at California State University, Northridge  
Professor M. Ontiveros

This syllabus is subject to change.

Please see the 615 Canvas pages for current information.

Instructor: Professor M. Ontiveros

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Office: Sagebrush 219

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 – 4:00 via Zoom. To accommodate students, additional office hours (also via Zoom) are reserved each week.

Catalogue Description: Seminar exploring the critical approach to the work of art in terms of form, content and expression. Aesthetic and methodological problems will be treated in particular relationship to contemporary art and its criticism. (Offered Spring semester.)

Prerequisites: Minimum 1 year Art History (2 years recommended); Graduate standing.

Student Learning Outcomes addressed in this course:

1. Students will acquire academic and professional knowledge and skills in various art media, concepts and methodologies.
2. Students will produce an academic and professional body of individual and collaborative work suitable for a master of fine arts degree, for the local, national and global marketplace.
3. Students will solve visual problems at academic and professional levels, including understanding/application of the elements of art and principles of design.
4. Students will utilize and apply critical thinking skills to communicate ideas for their intended audience at an academic and professional level in visual, oral, and written formats.
5. Students will acquire historical and contemporary knowledge of diverse cultural and aesthetic contexts, including political, visual and material culture.

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### Structure of the Course

There are four components to this course:

- 1) Reading - As a reading intensive class, students will be expected to read all assigned readings before class.
- 2) Discussion - Each class will involve individual, small-group, and/or class discussions. Typically, discussion will be based on the assigned readings and writing assignments.
- 3) Writing - As a writing intensive course, students will be expected to write Critical Reviews. Please see details below.
- 4) Presentations - Students will be required to lead class discussions and prepare Discussion Questions on a weekly basis. In addition, readings of Critical Reviews will be required.

### Course Requirements

- Weekly presentations of discussion questions based on assigned readings.
- Writing annotations based on assigned readings.
- Weekly writing of "Critical Reviews."
- Participation (individual and small groups) in every class discussion and/or exercise.
- Completing and submitting all course work on time and on the assigned dates.

### Grades

1. (25%) Critical Review #1
2. (25%) Critical Review #2
3. (25%) Critical Review #3
4. (25%) Discussion Questions

Grade Scale for all assignments:

100 - 93, A; 92.99 - 90, A-; 89.99 - 87, B+; 86.99 - 83, B; 82.99 - 80, B-; 79.99 - 77, C+; 76.99 - 73, C; 72.99 - 70, C-; 69.99 - 67, D+; 66.99 - 60, D; 59.99 - 0.00, F

## ART 615: Art Analysis & Criticism

All the work for this course must be your own original work. Plagiarism (uncredited copying) on a paper, cheating on the quiz or an exam, or falsifying medical excuses will result in the grade of F for the entire course. You are expected to use extensive research materials for assignments, and you must credit the sources by using quotation marks, footnotes, and bibliography. If you need help in writing an assignment, please ask the professor.

### Additional Information Relating to Grades / Course Requirements

Makeup presentations, discussion questions, and other class writing assignments will be allowed only with a physician's written medical excuse. See course website/Canvas for any updated information.

Students must also: Submit a signed COURSE REGISTRATION form (See Canvas)

### Additional Information Relating to Grades / Course Requirements / Course Materials

This information is discussed during seminar and available on the course Canvas pages.

Please be sure to check Canvas each week for textbooks, readings, handouts, writing/research guidelines, etc. In order to meet the demands of the department and to address the changing and multiple Los Angeles "art worlds" (and there are many art worlds, despite what the marketplace concentrates on); and thus necessarily the course materials vary each year.

Course lectures and discussions may not be recorded, nor any information related to the course (e.g. lecture notes, class handouts, syllabus, images) be posted on the Internet (including the course website and/or Canvas) without the express permission of the instructor.