



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Contemporary Art Theory 1

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
VSA	3021	87296	1, 2009	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOART
Academic org:	FOA005
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	100301

STAFFING

Examiner: Rhod McNeill
Moderator: Stephen Spurrier

RATIONALE

This course introduces key research areas and debates in contemporary visual arts theory. It develops key issues in contemporary art theory which are developed further in Contemporary Art Theory 2

SYNOPSIS

The conceptual frameworks introduced by this course might lean on students thinking about practical work. Throughout the course students will learn and develop critical tools which will enable them to reflect upon and theorise research.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. identify a variety of key areas of interest currently used by researchers in the visual arts;
2. describe and discuss major principles and methods used in visual theory;
3. demonstrate written communication skills appropriate to the task of planning and submitting written research projects;
4. demonstrate oral communication skills by presenting a seminar paper.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Introduction to contemporary arts research	20.00
2. Dimensions of contemporary visual culture	20.00
3. Theory and contemporary visual culture	20.00
4. Meanings of art theory and applications for practice	20.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Materials and equipment for studio work to be discussed with studio lecturers in light of the individual programme of each student.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Bois, YA & Krauss, R 1997, *Formless: a user's guide*, Zone Books, New York.

Crary, J 1992, *Techniques of the observer: on vision and modernity in the 19th century*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Easthope, A & McGowan, K 1992, *A critical and cultural theory reader*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney.

Harrison, C, Wood, P & Gaiger, J 1991, *Art in theory 1648-1815: an anthology of changing ideas*, Blackwell Publishers, London.

Harrison, C, Wood, P & Gaiger, J 1998, *Art in theory 1815-1900: an anthology of changing ideas*, Blackwell Publishers, London.

Harrison, C & Wood, P 2002, *Art in theory 1900-2000: an anthology of changing ideas*, Blackwell Publishers, London.

Krauss, R 1986, *The originality of the avant-garde and other modernist myths*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lechte, J 2007, *Fifty key contemporary thinkers*, Routledge, London.

Mirzoeff, N 2007, *The visual culture reader*, Routledge, London.

Robinson, H 2001, *Feminism-art-theory 1968-2000*, Blackwell Publishers, London.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Lectures	26.00
Private Study	69.00
Project Work	56.00
Tutorials	14.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date	Objectives assessed	Graduate skill	Level assessed
SEMINAR PRESENTATION	100.00	20.00	20 Mar 2009 (see note 1)	2, 3	U3, U4	3, 3
1500 WORD ESSAY	100.00	20.00	23 Mar 2009 (see note 2)	2	U3, U4	3, 3
3000 WORD ESSAY	100.00	60.00	15 Jun 2009 (see note 3)	1, 4	U3, U4	3, 3

NOTES

1. This assessment involves students doing a seminar presentation on an assigned topic. These will be conducted throughout the semester in tutorials. This will be reviewed by a panel and marked accordingly as part of progressive assessment. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 2 and 3.
2. This assessment item is aligned with Objective 2.
3. This assessment item aligned with Objectives 1 and 4.

GRADUATE QUALITIES AND SKILLS

Elements of the following Graduate Skills are associated with the successful completion of this course.

Graduate skill assessed	Level assessed
Academic & Professional Literacy (Skill U3)	Advanced (Level 3)
Written & Oral Communication (Skill U4)	Advanced (Level 3)

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
It is the student's responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. For this course, normal class attendance consists of one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To successfully complete an individual assessment item, a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. This statement must be read in conjunction with Statement 4 below.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without extenuating circumstances and without prior approval, then a penalty of a maximum of 5% of the assigned mark may apply for each working day late, up to a maximum of 10 working days, at which time a mark of zero can be recorded for that assignment.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade, a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.

- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no exam for this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course. However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted by a date set by the examiner.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL
<http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm>

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must lodge the assignment at the USQ. (b) All Faculty of Arts assignments must be lodged in the Faculty Assessment Centre on the Ground Floor of Q Block no later than 12 noon on the due date. (c) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience. (d). Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (e) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (f) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (g) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).