HON 121 “Arts in New York City” (26208)

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An introduction to the arts in New York City from the subway tunnels and back rooms of pubs to the Metropolitan Opera House and everything in between. Students will explore such ideas as what is Art, when does something become Art, and who owns Art? Students will use both formal essays and low stakes writing assignments to explore the relationships between art and society, art and art criticism, as well as their own reactions to various works of art. By writing frequently, students will begin to develop a deeper understanding of themselves while honing their analytic and communication skills.

Objectives:

- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
- Produce well-reasoned written and oral arguments to support conclusions.
- Identify and apply fundamental concepts and methods of the arts.
- Analyze how arts from a variety of cultures of the past serve as a foundation for those of the present and describe the significance of works of art in the societies that created them.
- Articulate how meaning is created in the arts and how experience is interpreted and conveyed.
- Use appropriate technologies to conduct research and communicate.
- Utilize appropriate evaluative discourse to analyze one’s personal experience of arts and its cultural and historical context.
- Formulate one’s own aesthetic values after having studied the city’s wide range of expressions.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance (including performances and common events) and classroom participation -30%
2. Journal/blog responses to classroom discussions and field trips- 15%
3. Mid-term famous artist presentation- 10%
4. Two five page papers (Presentation topic and about your play and playwright)- 25%
5. Final performance presentations -10%
6. Quizzes – 5%
7. STEAM/Masks Presentation- 5%

Reading Assignments:

“Ways of Seeing” **ISBN-10:** 0140135154 **ISBN-13:** 978-0140135152

“This Is What I Know About Art” **ISBN:** 9780593095188

“Just Kids” **ISBN-10:** 0060936223 **ISBN-13:** 978-0060936228

*“*Scenes from the Latin Quarter*”* by Henri Murger translated by Ellen Marriage and John Selwyn (packet)

Poems by Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Dorothy Parker, Frank O’Hara, and Richard Stremme (packet)

Other plays as assigned

https://openlab.macaulay.cuny.edu/french2026/

Class site: https://openlab.macaulay.cuny.edu/french2026/ (password macaulay)

August 28th Course expectations and projects. Discussion what is Art. Journal/Blog entry/open lab review.

Homework: *Ways of Seeing"* Read the first three essays (one pictorial and two written).

Independent trip to see The New Museum, the Whitney, the MOMA, Cooper Hewitt, the Frick etc.

September 4th Quiz *"Ways of Seeing"* We will discuss the first three essays and how it suggests we have been told to look at art versus how we should look at art. The class will include discussion about who has told us how to look at art through-out our lives and the validity of this information.

In class project: campus walk (if the weather is bad today, do this in your neighborhood this weekend), find one piece of art be it official public art, street art, architecture etc. from campus/your own neighborhood take a picture. Answer the questions does this piece of art work "speak to you," why or why not? Does it represent your campus/neighborhood, why or why not? Why do you think it is there? Who put it there? Post picture and responses in Blog.

Homework: "*Ways of Seeing"* Read the last four essays, (two pictorial and two written). Independent trip to see The New Museum, the Whitney, the MOMA, Cooper Hewitt, the Frick etc.

Journal/Blog entry

September 18th Quiz "Ways of Seeing." Discuss museum visits. Discuss the last four essays of *"Ways of Seeing"* (two pictorial and two written). We will continue our discussion of how the author suggests we have been told to look at art versus how we should look at art. We will also discuss elements of *"Ways of Seeing"* and how they relate to Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, TicToc, etc.

Presentations to be assigned

Homework: Read *"This Is What I Know About Art."* Begin research for projects and papers. Professional Art visits

Journal/Blog entry

September 19/26th^th Snug Harbor Open House and Fence Show

Journal/Blog

or

Affordable Art Fair 16th-20sth https://affordableartfair.com/fairs/new-york-fall/

Journal/Blog

September 25th Quiz Discuss *"This Is What I Know About Art."* in relation to Berger: access to art, who is art for, who gets to be an artist, who gets to talk about art and decide what is art etc. as well as art as art as protest and an instrument of change.

IN CLASS PROJECT: Find a piece of political or protest art. It can be current or historical. Post the picture in the Blog and explain what it stood for. Why it is/was important. How does it resonate now?

Homework: "Just Kids" (read the following chapters: Forward, Mondays Children, Just Kids, and first half of Hotel Chelsea), Professional Art Visits

October 2nd Quiz "Just Kids." Discuss Art Fairs and Snug Harbor, Discuss the book *"Just Kids"* in relation to gender and identity in Art. "How to look at Art" exercise

Homework: Read the following chapters: Second half of Chelsea Hotel, Separate Ways Together; Holding Hands with God, A note to reader and the afterward.

October 9th Quiz Just Kids. We will continue our discussion of *"Just Kids"* in relation to art as mirror, social commentary, and protest. Looking at Art. Identity projects.

Homework: Prepare for class presentations

October 16th Class presentations

Prepare for Class presentations, Begin papers

October 17th (Saturday) Joyce Theatre "Nrityagram***" 7:00 at the theatre 6:30 ferry***

Journal/Blog

October 23rd Finish Class presentation

Homework

Read Poetry packet and Papers due on the 30th

October 28th Night at the Museum

Journal/Blog

October 30th Paper Due, Quiz Poetry Packet. Discuss poetry of Walt Whitman "A Child Said "What is the Grass," Langston Hughes "Let America be America Again," Frank O'Hara "Having a Coke," "Lana Turner has Collapsed," Dorothy Parker Coda and Resume, Patti Smith "Wild Wild Leaves," Audre Lorde "A Trip on the Staten Island Ferry," Rich Stremme "Poem" and "New Work".

IN CLASS PROJECT: Class poem

Homework: Begin to read "Scenes from the Latin Quarter,"

November 6th, Street Art Vandalism vs. Expression.

Assign Final presentations and paper (On the Waterfront, Angels in America, The Zoo Story, Six Degrees of Separation, Balm in Gilead, The Prisoner of Second Avenue/Barefoot in the Park, The Indian Wants the Bronx, Beirut Rocks, FOB, Raisin in the Sun and more TBD)

Guest speaker Rich Stremme will speak about Punk, Graffiti, and Tattooing as Art, Brutally Familiar/Deacons/M13, Why DIY?, and his MFA in poetry.

IN CLASS PROJECT: on a big piece of paper, create your own street art. It could be a tag, a mural, a political statement etc. No explanation needed, post it on the blog.

Homework: Paper revisions and continue "Scenes from the Late Quarter," begin researching final project, watch Rent

November 13th Paper Revisions Due, Quiz "Scenes from the Latin Quarter." Discuss "Scenes from the Latin Quarter," Opera Lecture

Homework: read your play, research for final paper, begin masks

November 20th Theatre History Overview, Begin "The Arts and Crafts of Performance"

Homework: finish reading your play, complete final paper, watch "Rent," work on masks

December 4th First draft of final paper due. Discuss Rent vs "Bohemians of the Latin Quarter." Continue "The Arts and Crafts of acting and performance." In class rehearsal

Homework: Scene work masks must be ready for the weekend

December 5th (Saturday) Metropolitan Opera "La Boheme" 7:30 at the theatre 6:30 ferry

Journal/Blog

December 5th and 6th STEAM

December 11th In class rehearsal

Homework: Revisions of final paper and rehearse

December 18th Final presentations and Final Paper Due.

Trip List:

The MOMA, The Frick, The Whitney, The New Museum, Cooper Hewitt Museum etc.

Art Fairs/Snug Harbor

Joyce Theatre Nrityagram October 17th at 7:00

The Guggenheim, October 28th

Lincoln Center “La Boheme,” December 5th at 7:00

STEAM December 5th and 6th