HUM 201 - Exploring the Arts in NYC

Professor: Peter Romano
Meeting Times: Mondays 11:00a - 2:20p
Office Hours: By Appointment
Contact: PR720@Hunter.cuny.edu

Course description:
This course introduces students to the arts of New York City. As a group and individually we visit museums and attend theatre performances. Class sessions explore and develop ways of describing, engaging, evaluating, and questioning these varied cultural experiences.

Course methodology:
Readings and discussions will emphasize the social context of art in order to bring to the fore the ways in which the art and performances we experience together reflect issues pertinent to questions of identity and concern for today's artists and audience members. Our aim is to extend and deepen the insights, pleasures, and understandings the arts may have to offer.

Expected Learning Outcomes:
Students will:
· **Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.** After reading primary source texts and critical essays relevant to a particular work, students write reflections in which they demonstrate their understanding of what they have seen/ experienced on several analytic levels.

· **Evaluate evidence and arguments analytically.** Students are asked in their writing assignments and oral presentation to critically engage with the assigned readings and works of art. Throughout the semester, students must demonstrate their ability to analyze different kinds of artistic production not only in individual written assignments but also in creative assignments and class discussions.

· **Articulate how meaning is created in the arts or communications and how experience is interpreted and conveyed.** Students are required to identify the key characteristics of particular forms that constitute the varied artistic forms that are examined by the class throughout the semester. Throughout the course, students are asked to analyze the creative process on several different levels, as it is experienced subjectively and also — with the help of reading assignments, lectures and class discussions — on aesthetic, historical, social, and political levels.

Course Objectives and Requirements
As you will see from the syllabus and accompanying course schedule, some of class time and some evenings will be spent out of the classroom experiencing artworks in and around the city. This course requires students' continuous engagement in diverse activities including creative expression, critical thinking and analytical writing. Students need to be prepared to share their views and ideas in both oral and written form about assigned readings, discussions of issues raised by performances, art exhibitions or public spaces visited.

Attendance
Since this course combines experiential learning, research and discussion, attendance is a critical factor. If a student must miss a class, they will notify the Professor in advance. If a class outing is missed, the student will make up attendance on their own time.

Attendance is expected at every class session and at all events scheduled outside the classroom.

No cell phone use during class. Use of laptops and/or tablets is restricted to students who require them.

Grading Breakdown
- All Assignments 80%
- Participation 20%

Assignments Overview
All assignments are due at the beginning of class on dates listed in Course Schedule.

Written Reflections:
You will write 3 short essays reflecting on the works you experience throughout the semester. You will write 2 reflections for Theatre and 1 for Visual Art. The Final Presentation will be explained and details posted on Blackboard later in the semester.

Written Assignments:
- Theatre (2x) (20% each)
- Visual Art (20%)

Presentations:
- Final Presentation (20%)

Readings:

All of our readings will be available electronically. Most will be available via Blackboard or handed out in class and will include:

- Aristotle. The Poetics. Translated by S.H. Butcher. 3 November 2008.
- Barnet, Sylan. A Short Guide To Writing About Art. Pearson, 2005.
- Fuchs, Elinor. "Visit to a Small Planet: Some Questions to Ask a Play." Theater. Vol 34, No 2. Summer 2004. Duke University Press.
- Pullman, Philip. "A Bar at the Folies-Bergère: Modernism and Storytelling." Daemon Voices. Penguin Random House, 2019.

TRIGGER WARNING
As part of this course, we will be experiencing works of art representing viewpoints and situations that may be uncomfortable. In some cases, we will be seeing new work for which I cannot offer a thorough warning regarding all possible triggers. Feeling secure in your ultimate safety as you explore challenging subjects is important, and I encourage you, in cases where you are concerned, to reach out to the art institution in advance and to prepare yourself however necessary.

Relatedly, we will have to talk about the works of art that challenge and discomfort us, at times engaging with new topics as thorny as those represented in the art itself. Participation in these discussions is part of our class. We will conduct these conversations with sensitivity and care for ourselves and others.

ADA Statement:
In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4857 /or VRS (646) 755-3129.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity:
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. Hunter College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct:
In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:
http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf

*Please Note: This Syllabus and Course Schedule are subject to change during the semester.

Course Schedule

Week 1

01.30 Mo
Introduction to Class, Review of Syllabus and Course Schedule
Reading Assignment: “A Short Guide to Writing About Art”
In-Class “Close Looking Exercise”

Week 2

02.06 Mo
MEET DURING CLASS HOURS
CLASS OUTING: Museum of Modern Art
Meet @ Hunter and commute to MoMa together.

Week 3

02.13 Mo
No Classes/College Closed

Week 4

02.20 Mo
President’s Day - No Classes/College Closed

02.21 Tu
Classes Follow Monday Schedule - We Will Not Meet This Week

Week 5

02.27 Mo
MEET DURING CLASS HOURS
CLASS OUTING: “BEFORE YESTERDAY WE COULD FLY” @ Metropolitan Museum
Meet @ Hunter and walk over to the Met together.

Week 6

03.06 Mo
MEET DURING CLASS HOURS
CLASS OUTING: “Edward Hopper’s New York” @ Whitney Museum
Meet @ Whitney Museum
Reading Assignment: “Visit to a Small Planet"

Week 7

03.13 Mo
Introduction to Theatre
DUE: Written Reflection - Visual Art

Week 8

03.20 Mo
NO CLASS

CLASS OUTING: **PERICLES Monday March 20th 7:00p**
The Doxsee @ Target Margin Theater
232 52nd Street, Brooklyn

Week 9

03.27 Mo
NO CLASS

CLASS OUTING: ***AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE* - Date/Time TBD**
Hunter Theatre Department Production
DUE: Written Reflection - Theatre #1

Week 10

04.03 Mo NO CLASS

CLASS OUTING: ***FAT HAM*** **Tuesday April 04th 8:00p**
American Airlines Theatre. 227 W 42nd St.
Meet outside the Theater to collect tickets.

Week 11

04.10 Mo ***Spring Break - No Classes/College Closed***

Week 12

04.17 Mo Discuss FAT HAM with Special Guest(s)

Week 13

04.24 Mo CLASS OUTING: TBD

Week 14

05.01 Mo CLASS OUTING: TBD
DUE: Written Reflection - Theatre #2

Week 15

05.08 Mo Final Presentations

Week 16

05.15 Mo Final Presentations