HNRS 125: The Arts in New York City
Macaulay Honors College (MHC) Seminar 1

Fall 2023 / Queens College, CUNY

Professor	Dr. Caroline K. Hong (hear my name here; *she/her* pronouns)
Class Info	no. 24575; 3 credits; Tuesdays 9:10am–12:00pm in Honors Hall 12
Contact Info	email caroline.hong@qc.cuny.edu or message me on Slack
Office Hours	via Zoom or Slack on Thursdays 10:00–11:00am + by appointment
TLC Support	email tlchelp@macaulay.cuny.edu or sign up for TLC support hours

Course Description

General MHC Seminar 1 description

The first seminar introduces Macaulay students to the arts and their roles in the life, history, and expression of New York. The seminar provides students with a foundation in the critical liberal arts skills and attitudes that will support their learning throughout their college years and beyond. During the semester, students attend theatrical, operatic, and musical performances, exhibitions of visual art, and other highlights of the current cultural season. In addition to experiencing these art forms as an audience, students are encouraged to examine performances and exhibitions from the multiple perspectives of scholarship, creativity, and production. The seminar will include examples and discussions of artistic endeavors from people of diverse racial, ethnic, class, national, religious, gender, sexuality, and other identities, specifically including Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), with attention to the intersectionality of these identities. The historical and contemporary uses of works of art to inform and propel social change and protest will also form part of the seminar. Students from all campuses will attend an arts-related event at a NYC cultural institution, promoting critical attention, creative analysis, and clear communication through conversation. Visits to exhibits, performances, and artist encounters continue throughout the semester. The course includes a late-semester cross-campus celebration and sharing of seminar work.

About our specific Seminar 1

Our seminar will explore some of the diverse arts in New York City, including but not limited to visual art, graffiti and street art, breaking, opera, theater, film, fiction, and comics. We will focus on artwork created by, about, and/or for historically marginalized or underrepresented communities, as well as art forms that have been culturally

marginalized. As we engage collectively and deeply with a variety of artworks and art forms, we will necessarily pay attention to how the arts simultaneously shape and are shaped by their complex social, cultural, historical, political, and economic contexts.

Learning Goals

- To explore the role of the arts throughout NYC and its diverse communities
- To become familiar with a wide range of art forms and their key features
- To practice interpretation, analysis, and critique of diverse art forms and artworks in in-class and online discussions, in writing, and via multimedia projects
- To engage a wide range of cultural perspectives and representations of race and racism, gender, sexuality, class, (dis)ability, religion, etc., in an open, sensitive, and respectful manner
- To find pleasure and meaning in the arts and as art critics

Logistics

COVID-19 Guidelines



- While CUNY has ended COVID vaccine and testing requirements, the pandemic is unfortunately ongoing. Up-to-date COVID-related info for QC can be found here, including isolation guidelines.
- QC is a mask-friendly campus. I will continue to mask indoors and test regularly, especially as COVID numbers are rising again, and I encourage everyone to consider doing so too.
- If you don't feel well, please stay home, so we can keep ourselves and our vulnerable family and community members as healthy and safe as possible. In our seminar, you will never be penalized for missing class because you're sick.

Blackboard

- We will be using **Blackboard (Bb)** as our course website/LMS. You can access Bb at https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/ or via the CUNY website (click on the top-right Login menu), using your CUNY Login (i.e., what you use to log into CUNYfirst).
- Our course (HNRS 125) should show up for you under "My Courses" for Fall 2023. Aside from the required text listed below, all materials for our seminar will be posted on Bb—our updated schedule, course content, weekly tasks, assignments, handouts, slides, resources, etc.
- For help, check out CUNY's Student User Guides for Bb or contact QC's ITS.

Slack



- We will be using **Slack** for our seminar's communications and online discussions. You can join our Seminar 1 Slack workspace by clicking on this invite link. Once you've signed up, you can access our Slack workspace at https://seminar-1-arts-in-nyc.slack.com/ or via the Slack desktop and mobile apps.
- For detailed info and instructions, please see below and the "Using Slack for Seminar 1" handout.

Zoom



- Our seminar meets fully in person. However, for office hours/study hall, or if we ever need to meet online, we will use **Zoom**, which you can access for free at https://cuny.zoom.us/ with your CUNY Login.
- To join our seminar Zoom from a computer, tablet, or phone, click on this meeting link, or enter our meeting ID (837 6291 3176) and passcode (artsinnyc). For help, see the Zoom Help Center.
- Please do not record any part of our seminar, audio or video, without my consent.

Required Texts

- Most of our readings and other course content will be shared in class and/or provided as PDFs or links on our Blackboard.
- The only other required text is Qui Nguyen's play *Vietgone*. I recommend listening to the audiobook by purchasing it from Libro.fm, or with a 30-day free trial with Audible or Audiobooks.com, or by buying the print version from your local indie bookseller, Bookshop, the QC online bookstore, or wherever books are sold. It may also be available to borrow from our QC library, another CUNY library, or your local public library. Ebook versions are also fine, as long as you can access the text in class and have a way to take notes as you read.

Seminar Requirements and Expectations

Grade Breakdown (out of 100)

30%	Participation (2 points each x 14 weeks, plus 2 points for field trips)
15%	Slack (1 point each x 14 weeks, plus 1 point for replies)
15%	Art Criticism Essay
40%	STEAM Festival Project (includes multiple components)

Participation

I hope that each of you will actively participate in our seminar as much as you can. You earn your participation grade by showing up to class on time and staying till the end; being focused and engaged during class; participating in class discussions and activities; completing all readings/content and weekly tasks posted on Blackboard; and attending our field trips (see below).

In our seminar, students may miss **1 class** during the semester without penalty—no questions asked, no explanations necessary. Additional missed classes may impact your participation grade. Classes that are missed due to health issues, religious observances, and personal/family emergencies can be made up, as long as you reach out and make arrangements with me.

Field Trips

Required field trips will include (but may not be limited to)

- An **opera workshop** with Amanda Zory, either (A) Tuesday, September 26, 4:00–5:30pm on Zoom, or (B) Wednesday, October 11, 3:00–4:30pm in person at the Macaulay Building (click here to register)
- A **museum visit** on your own before October 16 (see "Museum Visit" handout)
- An **off-Broadway play**, likely a Sunday matinee in November (details TBA)
- Macaulay's **Night at the Museum** on Tuesday, November 14 (details TBA)

Details and guidelines for these field trips will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class. If you are not able to attend any of our field trips, please let me know ASAP so that we can work out alternate arrangements if possible.

Slack Discussion Posts

Our seminar will be using Slack for online communications and discussions. Before each class, on our Seminar 1 Slack workspace, students are expected to (1) briefly post at least once about the artworks for that week and (2) reply to at least one classmate's post. These posts will enable you to shape our seminar's conversations and practice your skills as art critics in an informal way. (And hopefully it'll also be more fun than a Blackboard discussion board and help us build community outside of class.) For detailed info and instructions, please see the "Using Slack for Seminar 1" handout.

Art Criticism Essay

For the Art Criticism Essay, you will submit a short essay discussing any single artwork from our syllabus or from your museum visit. Your essay can be either a written essay (2–3 pages long) or a video essay (5–7 minutes long), and it will be due by Week 8 (see

schedule below for tentative due date). The assignment prompt, with detailed guidelines and rubric, will be provided at least 2 weeks in advance.

STEAM Festival Project

For your final project for our seminar, you will create a multimedia project for Macaulay's annual STEAM Festival, scheduled for **December 6–10** (details TBA). Your project will have multiple components (a proposal due in Week 10, the final version due in Week 14, an in-person or virtual presentation at the festival, and a self-review/reflection due during finals week), and we'll be working on these together throughout the second half of the semester. The project prompt, with detailed guidelines and rubric, will be provided at least 2 weeks in advance of the proposal due date (see schedule below for tentative due dates).

Late Work

I accept late tasks and assignments, though there may be a grade reduction if students have not communicated with me. I'm always happy to grant extensions on tasks and assignments, without penalty, as long as you request them ahead of time. (Please note, however, that the final due date for your STEAM Festival Projects is set by Macaulay.)

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a moral and ethical commitment that we make as students and scholars. This commitment includes making sure that anything you submit for your classes is your original work and that you always properly cite any and all outside sources. Taking credit for or otherwise using work that is not your own without attribution or citation—whether it's a phrase or a paragraph or a whole assignment, and whether it's written with the help of a loved one, purchased from a service, or generated using AI tools like ChatGPT (which often get things wrong)—all of these are considered plagiarism, even if unintentional. Plagiarism may result in a zero on the assignment and possibly a failing grade in the class or, in some extreme cases, even suspension or expulsion from the College. Please review CUNY's Academic Integrity Policy and let me know if you are ever confused or have questions about what might constitute plagiarism. I'll also share resources throughout the semester to help you develop effective and ethical research and citation practices.

Accessibility & Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Anyone who needs accommodations has a right to have those needs met. Students with disabilities who need academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office; and (2) provide a letter indicating

the type of accommodation needed. This should be done by the first week of classes. For more info, please visit the Special Services Office in Kiely Hall 108, call them at 718-997-5870, or email QC.SPSV@qc.cuny.edu.

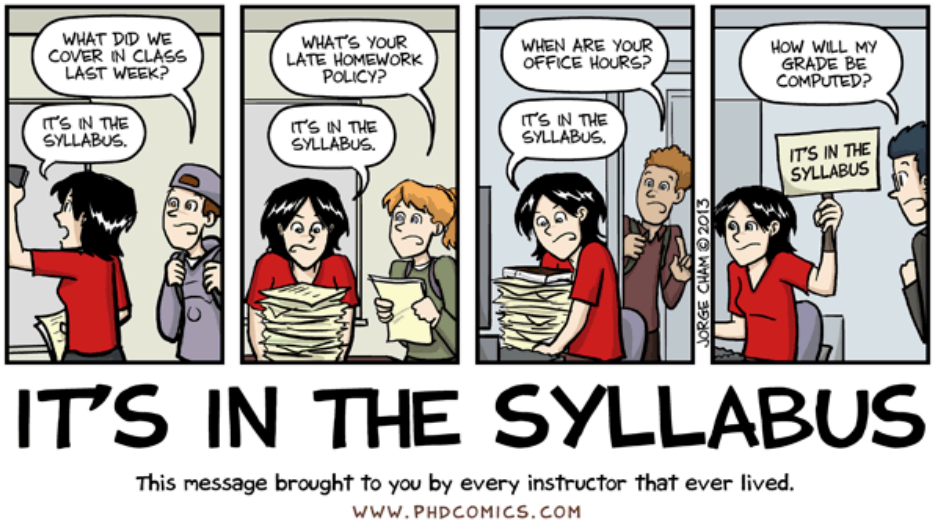
Note: We all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that exclude you or prevent you from learning, even if you don't have a documented disability, please let me know as soon as possible. We can work together to figure out strategies that meet both your needs and the seminar requirements.

Equal Access

Classes should provide fair and equal access to all students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic background, immigration status, (dis)ability, age, religion, etc. Everyone in this class is expected to treat each other with respect and collegiality and to adhere to our community agreements. Hate speech, harassment, or any other behavior that targets or makes difficult the participation of anyone in our class will not be tolerated. If you ever feel uncomfortable with a situation or discussion that occurs in or outside of our class—especially if there are issues that affect your safety, autonomy, and/or access—please don't hesitate to communicate with me or talk to someone at Student Affairs, Counseling Services, or the Title IX Coordinator.

QC/CUNY Services and Resources

Please see our Blackboard and the QC and CUNY websites for more info about student services and resources, including the CUNY Student Survival Guide, QC Hub, Knights Table Food Pantry, Petrie Student Emergency Grant, QC Library, Learning Commons, Writing Center, Center for Career Engagement and Internships, ITS, Counseling Services, Macaulay Mental Health and Wellness Center, CUNY's Mental Health Services, CUNY Arts, Cultural Passport, *The Knight News*, etc.



Seminar Schedule

See Blackboard for weekly instructions and course materials.

*Content and tasks should be completed **before** class, unless otherwise noted.*

Dates	Content	Tasks / Assignments
Week 1 TUE 8/29	*Introductions*	Intro survey Join Slack + intro posts
Week 2 TUE 9/05	bell hooks's essay "Art on My Mind" Carrie Mae Weems's photographs Kara Walker's artwork	Slack posts
Week 3 TUE 9/12	"When Does Graffiti Become Art?" "A South Bronx Graffiti Walkabout" "Graffiti Is Back in Virus-Worn New York" "The History of American Graffiti" *Style Wars* (watch in class)	Register for Opera Workshop (either A or B) Slack posts
Week 4 TUE 9/19	Jean-Michel Basquiat's artwork Banksy's artwork *Banksy Does New York* clips	Slack posts
Week 5 TUE 9/26	*Planet B-Boy* (watch in class)	Slack posts
FIELD TRIP (TUE 9/26, 4:00–5:30pm, on Zoom): Opera Workshop, option A		
Week 6 TUE 10/03	*La Bohème* (watch in class)	Slack posts
NO CLASS on TUE 10/10 (follows Monday schedule)		
FIELD TRIP (WED 10/11, 3–4:30pm, at Macaulay): Opera Workshop, option B		
Week 7 TUE 10/17	*Rent*, Act I (watch in class)	Midterm survey Slack posts **Museum Visit due by MON 10/16**

Week 8 TUE 10/24	*Rent*, Act II (watch in class) **Guest speaker** – DJ Rekha	Slack posts **Art Criticism Essay due TUE 10/24, 11:59pm**
Week 9 TUE 10/31	Qui Nguyen's play *Vietgone*, Act I	Slack posts
Week 10 TUE 11/07	Qui Nguyen's play *Vietgone*, Act II through Epilogue	Slack posts
FIELD TRIP (SUN 11/12, 2pm, at NY City Center Stage I): *Poor Yella Rednecks*		
Week 11 TUE 11/14	*Work on STEAM Festival projects*	Slack posts **Project Proposal due MON 11/13, 11:59pm**
FIELD TRIP (TUE 11/14, Brooklyn Museum): Night at the Museum		
Week 12 TUE 11/21	Daphne Palasi Andreades's novel *Brown Girls* excerpts *Work on STEAM Festival projects*	Slack posts
Week 13 TUE 11/28	Yao Xiao's webcomics *Work on STEAM Festival projects*	Slack posts
Week 14 TUE 12/05	*The Forty-Year-Old Version* (watch in class)	Slack posts **STEAM Festival Projects due MON 12/04**
STEAM FESTIVAL (virtual 12/06–07 & in-person 12/09–10; details TBA)		
Finals Week		**Self-Review & Reflection due TUE 12/19, 11:59pm**

This syllabus is subject to change.

Last updated 8/28/2023. See Blackboard for up-to-date schedule.