

Course Description Form

Course number and section: ARTH 202 001

Course Topic: THE CRITICAL VIEWER

Credits: 3 credits

Term: Term 1

Instructor: Dr. Nathalie Hager

Course Description (aim for no more than 80 – 100 words for your course description):

This course introduces students to researching, reading, and writing about art, and art history and visual culture. It provides the opportunity for students to analytically read, critique, and construct viable arguments by teaching the difference between opinion and argument, the structuring of arguments, fact-checking, and how to use evidence judiciously. It also introduces students to diverse genres of writing as well as the ways context and theories can be used to develop reasoned interpretations.

Tentative Reading List:

There is no required textbook for this course. Links to required and optional readings and videos will be provided on Canvas (www.canvas.ubc.ca), UBC's learning platform.

Other: Learning Outcomes: During this course students will engage with a live in-gallery exhibition or online digital media project to hone essential skills in critical viewing: looking and seeing, thinking and analysis and critique, and writing for visual-centric disciplines. Upon successful completion of the course students will have developed skills in locating and evaluating a variety of research sources across a number of media platforms, and will be able to apply their (developing) skills in analytic viewing and reading to strengthen the arguments and supporting evidence that power their personal art historical writing or digital humanities projects. Assignments in this course are scaffolded, which means that they slowly build towards a final submission: a polished, ready-to-be-published critical review of a local gallery/museum exhibition or digital project.