

082:462 Workshop in Curatorial Training
Wednesdays, 1:10-4:10 PM
VH-006D

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Department of Art History

Class Description

This course explores the complexities involved in the practice of curating. Exhibitions and the display of objects are intertwined with the discipline of art history but are subject to particular limitations that may be budgetary, spatial, or institutional. Unlike art histories written for books or journals, which assume an audience of specialists or art history students, exhibitions are typically aimed towards general publics. Dependent on complex coordination between different parties, exhibitions are predicated on teamwork, but the labor that they engender is largely invisible. Also invisible—until recently—are the power structures and special interests that determine the direction of museums. Regardless of the topics they address, exhibitions are grounded in the present and their execution and reception may be affected by the context and circumstances of the day.

This course explores the intricacies of curatorial practice from both a theoretical lens and through real-world perspectives. In addition to readings, discussions, and class presentations, field trips to museums, conversations with artists and curators, and independent visits to exhibitions are an integral part of the curriculum. Students will also provide input into the professor's current curatorial projects.

Topics to be covered may include: case studies around museums and exhibitions, art and activism, curating inclusively, diversity in art history and its institutions, the global economy of the art world, power dynamics in curatorial practice, the purpose and authority of art criticism, the curator as translator, and the ethics of representation.

Prerequisites

The course is open to Art History majors and minors, as well as majors in Studio Art. Other students are welcome but require instructor's permission. Prior coursework in modern and contemporary Art History is recommended.

Course Website

There is no textbook required for this course. Readings and announcements will be posted on Sakai: sakai.rutgers.edu. Please log in regularly for updates.

Assignments and Expectations

Students are expected to maintain active class participation, read assigned texts in advance of class, attend every class session and field trip, orally present readings and other assignments, and turn in writing assignments by their deadline.

Writing assignments include

- 1) 3 exhibition reviews (2-3 pages each)
- 2) 2 critical response papers to a lecture, performance or workshop – at least one must be an artist's presentation – these should be engaged responses that reflect on the material presented in the context of curatorial practice (2-3 pages each)
- 3) Final paper (9-12 pages)

Oral presentations include

- 1) Reading presentations, including identifying and compiling artworks that relate to class themes
- 2) Discussion of reviews and response papers with your classmates
- 3) Presentation on the topic of the final paper

Distribution of Grade

- Class participation / Oral presentations (25%)
- Short papers (50%)
- Final paper (25%)

Grading Scale

A = 93 - 100

B+ = 88 - 92

B = 81 - 87

C+ = 77 - 80

C = 70 - 76

D = 65 - 69

F= 64 and Below

Attendance

This class only meets once a week, so perfect attendance is expected. Unexcused absences will result in deductions from the final grade. If you have to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty—plagiarism or other—will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

All students are required to abide by the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy. Please review the information online at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>. Violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. When in doubt about what constitutes academic integrity, please ask the professor.