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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as follows:

This art history course will examine the aesthetics, the ideology and social conditions that have shaped women's relationships to the visual arts and to art history, as artists, as patrons, and as subject matter. No prerequisite.

It is often difficult to imagine in the 21st century that women were not allowed to study from the male nude or that they were prohibited from going to university. It is still worth remembering that it was less than 50 years ago that the first wave of feminist artists, such as Judy Chicago, began to demand that women who had contributed to society were recognized. It was not until the 1990s that standard survey of art textbooks included any work by women and yet today more than 80% of the students at art schools are female. While there have been some significant changes it is worth remembering that there are still fewer women art professors, women continue to get paid less than their male counterparts and women still do not have equal representation in the cultural world of art. That is why we still need a course on women and art. I hope one day that this course is not necessary!

## COURSE GOALS

Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to:

- specify the ways in which institutions (patriarchy, the fine art academy, museums, funding agencies, etc.) have marginalized female professional artists and those aspiring to professional status.
- explain how demographics impact women who aspire to become professional artists.
- identify contemporary women artists who are taking control of their own image making.
- discuss the range, the themes and the variety of contemporary women's art.
- assess the change in the status of women aspiring to become artists from the classical age of Greece and Rome to the present.

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## COURSE MATERIALS

### REQUIRED

#### Bookstore

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

#### Textbooks

Guerrilla Girls (1998). *The Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art*. New York: Penguin Books.

Heartney, E., H. Posner, N. Princenthal, S. Scott (eds.) (2013). *After the Revolution. Women Who Transformed Contemporary Art*. New York: Prestel.

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

### OVERVIEW

We begin this course with a look at the world of women and art through the eyes of the Guerrilla Girls, an anonymous group of women artists who publicly expose the disparity between male and female artists. We conclude the course with a close look at a number of women artists who 'made it' beating the patriarchal system that caused others to be so oppressed!

### TOPICS

<b>Unit 1:</b> Introduction to women and art	is a survey of women who became artists and the obstacles they faced from the classical period to the present.
<b>Unit 2:</b> Linda Nochlin	examines the essay, 'Why are there no great women artists'?
<b>Unit 3:</b> Louise Bourgeois	considers the themes of trauma in Bourgeois' sculpture.
<b>Unit 4:</b> Nancy Spero	shows how Spero used archetypal female imagery.
<b>Unit 5:</b> Marina Abramovic	looks at Abramovic's performance art.
<b>Unit 6:</b> Jenny Holzer	questions the role of narrative in art.
<b>Unit 7:</b> Cindy Sherman	examines the conceptual portraits of Sherman.
<b>Unit 8:</b> Kiki Smith	explores the female form.
<b>Unit 9:</b> Ann Hamilton	is about multimedia installation.
<b>Unit 10:</b> Shirin Neshat	deconstructs the role of women in Neshat's films.
<b>Unit 11:</b> Ellen Gallagher	considers racial stereotypes.
<b>Unit 12:</b> Dana Shutz	looks at the expressive nature of art.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In this course you will have three major sources of information: the assigned textbooks, fellow students, and the synopsis material presented by your instructor on the course website. They are meant to be used together in the following fashion:

#### Knowledge building through individual activity:

You will be asked to complete a series of readings for each unit, this includes the following possible items: sections from the course texts, articles from the University of Manitoba Library collection, various websites and your video lecture. You can complete these readings or viewing in any order, but they should all be reviewed at least tentatively before sharing your image for the unit.

#### Knowledge building through collaborative activity:

After we have completed the initial two units you will be asked to participate weekly in a discussion forum group in response to the major themes you observe in each artists work. You are not expected to present a standalone mini-essay, but rather share your thoughts in relation to your classmates and build on the thoughts of one another in an academic discourse. Your instructor will not respond to every post in the discussion forum as this is your space to explore ideas, but he or she will check in occasionally to answer questions as needed.

#### Knowledge building through self-analysis:

In your second post of the discussion forum you should be demonstrating not only your knowledge of the course content but how this information fits into your understanding as well as how your understanding has changed as the course progresses.

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## EVALUATION AND GRADING

### DISTRIBUTION OF MARKS

Evaluation	Percentage
Assignment 1: Short Essay	10%
Assignment 2: Image Reflection and Discussions	30% (10 x 3%)
Assignment 3	30%
Final Exam	30%
<b>Total</b>	100%

### GRADING SCALE

Letter grade	Grade Point value	Percentage range	Description
A+	4.5	93 – 100	Exceptional
A	4.0	87 – 92.5	Excellent
B+	3.5	79 – 86.5	Very good
B	3.0	72 – 78.5	Good
C+	2.5	65 – 71.5	Satisfactory
C	2.0	58 – 64.5	Adequate
D	1.0	50 – 57.5	Marginal
F	0.0	less than 50	Failure

**Note:** All final grades are subject to departmental review.

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Note:** Detailed instructions about the assignments are found in the assignment section in your course website.

#### Assignment 1: Short Essay

Complete reading the entire volume, *The Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art* and the Introduction of *After the Revolution. Women Who Transformed Contemporary Art*. You are to write an essay focusing on these readings. The title of your essay is: 'The Institutional Obstacles that Women Have Faced Historically in their Goal to become an Artist'. Your essay is to include examples of five (5) women who overcame the obstacles placed before them to become professional women artists. The length of your essay is 1500 words.

#### Assignment 2: Image Reflection and Discussion

Each unit you will be studying the life and work of a different contemporary artist. After reading the material you are to 1) find/create an image that demonstrates your understanding of the major themes represented by the artist; 2) Post the image in the Discussion Forum and state how your image relates to the concerns of the artist. 3) Respond to the post of at least one other classmate/unit.

#### Assignment 3

To complete this assignment you will conduct independent research on a female artist of your choice in order to prepare a research paper, and you will participate in a discussion forum about the research paper you wrote.

#### Assignment due dates

Consult your course schedule/announcements for the specific assignment due dates.

## TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

### Final Exam

The final examination is an online examination. You will not be required to write the exam on campus (if you are in Winnipeg) nor at an authorized examination centre (if you live outside Winnipeg).

Your exam will be open for a 24 hour period, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending the following day at 8 a.m., Central Time zone. Students will have three (3) hours to complete the examination. Students must allow themselves sufficient time to complete the exam before the end of the 24 hour period during which the examination will be available.

The final examination focuses on the artists you examined in *After the Revolution. Women Who Transformed Contemporary Art*. The final exam will be worth 30%. The exam will consist of three essay questions. The essay topics will be generalized, requiring a focused answer with examples of women and their work

### PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND EXAMINATION IMPERSONATION

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Note: These policies are also located in your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

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## DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION STUDENT RESOURCES

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contacting Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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