

Issues in Fine and Performing Arts

Contemporary Arts 111

Section: D100

Term: 2008 Fall

Instructor: Greg Snider

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Discussion Topics: This course offers an introduction to the School for the Contemporary Arts and its disciplinary areas of specialty: Dance, Film, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts. The practical and theoretical aspects of each area will be examined through key works and practitioners, with special emphasis on how different art forms have worked together in interdisciplinary ways. A social history of interdisciplinary practice in the 20th century forms the background of the course, along with an introduction to the terms and concepts of this development. Guest speakers from each area of the School will be invited to offer perspectives on their art form and its relevance to 21st century experience. There will be assigned attendance at outside performances, events, concerts, films and exhibitions, along with regularly assigned readings for discussion in the tutorial sections.

The goal of the course is to provide students with a critical context for understanding the arts and their place in contemporary culture, and to encourage students to respond to works of art in an informed and critical way.

A response paper (500 words), a critical essay (1500 words), a minimum of 3 event reports (250 words each, to be included in your notebooks), a midterm exam, and a final exam are required for the course. Attendance and participation is mandatory.

Grading: 10% Attendance, Participation and Notes

20% Response Papers/Event reports

25% Midterm Exam

20% Critical Essay

25% Take-home Exam

Required Texts: FPA 111 Custom Courseware

The Twentieth Century Performance Reader (Second Edition)

Michael Huxley and Noel Witts, eds. (Routledge, 1996)

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Roselee Goldberg, *Performance Art, From Futurism to the Present*(Abrams, 1988)

Sylvan Barnet, A S

Recommended Texts: A good dictionary, such as *The Concise Oxford English Dictionary* or the *Oxford Canadian English Dictionary*.

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

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