MSM 218 Barnes History and Methodology

Course Credit: 03
Pre-requisite: ART 200 or ART 100; or V&PA Dept. Consent
Meeting time: TBA
Instructor: (from the Barnes Foundation)
Instructor Info.: (email; phone)

Syllabus

Course Description:
Taught at the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania, this course will survey the aesthetic ideas of Dr. Albert Barnes (1872-1951) and provide insight into the history of the Barnes Foundation and its ongoing development, as well as issues related to museum education and organizational structure. Students will explore visual aesthetics and communication through the elements and principles of design, analyze a variety of objects in the Barnes Foundation galleries (including African art and works by Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso) and explore society values in art and design, to determine whether or not all works of art can be judged by a common standard of excellence.

Student Learner Outcomes

1. Students will achieve an understanding of specific artistic terms and theories associated with Dr. Barnes and close associates.

2. Students will be able to apply terms/theories as they relate to specific works of art.

3. Students will be able to recognize essential characteristics of painting styles, techniques, and plastic form and their relationships and influences on particular art historical traditions.

4. Students will be able to identify aesthetic and formal relationships in art objects and to discuss them in terms of associative concepts.

5. Students will understand fundamental points of Albert Barnes and John Dewey on theories of art education.

6. Students will understand major alternative approaches to Barnes when assessing quality in art.

7. Students will become familiar with aspects of maintaining high profile art collections and programming for the public benefit.

REQUIRED TEXTS


RECOMMENDED TEXT


TEXTBOOKS PROVIDED FOR LINCOLN STUDENTS


Learner Opportunities:

- Textbook and other assigned readings
- Informal Student Demonstrations
- Two formal oral presentations
- Written classroom exercises
- A Midterm and Final Take-Home Paper
- Viewing of original works of art at the Barnes Foundation in conjunction with presentations and papers

Assessment Tools/Grading Standards:

Grading Scale (Departmental Standard):

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<th>A-</th>
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<td>66.9-60.1</td>
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Weights and Percentages

- Two Oral Presentations: 20% each
- Midterm Paper: 20%
- Quiz (Design Terminology): 20 %
- Final Paper: 20 %

Late Work/Missed Quizzes and Exams:

With a valid written excuse (instructor's determination) an opportunity to make up missed quizzes and reschedule paper deadlines will be given. PAPERS are to be handed to instructor in class. Therefore, if they are not turned in on the due date, they will be a week late and receive a 10-point numerical grade penalty (unless special circumstances are discussed beforehand).
Attendance Policy
TWO ABSENCES from CLASS will result in a FIVE-POINT penalty on course grade. THREE missed CLASS MEETINGS will result in an automatic “F” final grade (you will be precluded from continuing the class.) This excludes EMERGENCY absences if authorized written documentation clarifying that it was impossible for you to attend class on a particular date is provided upon return to class. (A note that says you were at a doctor’s office does not constitute an “emergency” excuse unless it is accompanied by commentary explaining that your condition warranted or precluded missing class. Hospital notes and death notices are other examples of material that documents an emergency).

Assessment Procedures

Oral Presentations
Students are assessed through an orally administered process of 2 presentations that occur on the 4th and 11th weeks. Each student must locate, acknowledge and demonstrate, through the understanding of a specific artistic term or theory, the application of that term/theory as it relates to a painting or a part of a painting of their choosing. Upon identification, students must be able to clearly apply the definition/theory to the visual element in the artwork. They are required and assessed on their ability to achieve their intended goal and present their finding to the entire class, using examples from the selected artwork. Some examples used are: 1) locating a Curvilinear Line, and 2) establishing the painter’s rationale for using a Complimentary Color Scheme.

Mid-Term and Final Papers
As Midterm and Final Exams, students will prepare take-home critical papers, approximately five pages of main text (see Calendar below). A detailed worksheet is provided with instructions on format as well as content expectations, which will related to the identification of both aesthetic and interpretive elements in a painting of their choice (for each paper). Students will find the essential aesthetic elements in an artwork that will support a personally selected thesis or interpretation of the artwork. Students are assessed for their ability to make and support claims based on the criteria established in the course syllabus.

Course Schedule
(Some readings to be assigned are noted; others will be added. Practice quizzes, the graded quiz and homework assignments to be scheduled.)

Week 1:
Topics to be discussed:
Introduction: Barnes & Dewey, Principles of Design, the History of the Foundation and Display

Assigned Reading: Barnes, Bk. I, Chap. I, II; Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 1. (See also: Appiah & Gates, ix – xi.)

Week 2:
Topics to be discussed:
Color Value in Painting & Drawing: The Achromatic Scale and its Function

Assigned Reading: Barnes, Bk. II, Chap. IV, Dewey Chap. 1, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 12

Week 3:
Topics to be discussed:
Color Characteristics and Properties

Assigned Reading: Barnes, Bk. II, Chap. IV, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 12, pp. 229-242
**Week 4:**
Topics to be discussed:
**Color Schemes & Usage: Creating Mood and Interpreting Intention**
Assigned Reading:  Barnes, Bk. II, Chap. III, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 12, pp. 244-262

**Week 5:**
Topics to be discussed:
**Line in Painting: Composition Through Line and Shape**
Assigned Reading:  Barnes, Bk. II, Chap. IV-VI, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 7

**Week 6:**
Topics to be discussed:
**Shape and Volume: Perceiving Dimension**
Assigned Reading:  Barnes, Bk. II, Chap. I&II, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 8
Discussion on forthcoming Midterm Paper.

**Week 7:**
**MIDTERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT SHEET TO BE DISTRIBUTED; PAPER DUE NEXT CLASS.**
Topics to be discussed:
**Spatial Properties: Pictorial Depth Through Visual Device**
Assigned Reading:  Barnes, Bk. II, pp. 63-66, 105-108 Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 10

**Week 8:**
**MIDTERM PAPER DUE.**
Topics to be discussed:
**Unity in Design: Concepts of Visual Harmony**
Assigned Reading:  Barnes, Bk. II, Chap. V, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 2

**Week 9:**
Topics to be discussed:
**Focal Point/Emphasis: Visual Priorities**
Assigned Reading:  Dewey Chap. 2, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 3

**Week 10:**
Topics to be discussed:
**Balance in Composition: Equilibrium and Dynamism in Composition**
Assigned Reading:  Dewey Chap. 3, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 5

**Week 11:**
Topics to be discussed:
**Psychological Impact: Dr. Barnes, John Dewey and Ideation** (guest lecturer from LU, TBA)  
**Rhythm and Texture: Pictorial Surface and Visual Sensation**
Assigned Reading:  Barnes Bk. II, pp. 56-61, Lauer & Pentak, Chap. 6

**Week 12:**
Topics to be discussed:

The Barnes Method in Context with guest lecturer, Martha Lucy


**Week 13:**
Topics to be discussed:
Other Approaches to Looking at Art with guest lecturer, Martha Lucy, an art historian.


**Week 14:**
Topics to be discussed:
Wall Ensembles: Symbol and Metaphor, Content and Design I

Assigned Reading: Jung, Part 4, pp. 232-253

**Week 15:**
Topics to be discussed:
Wall Ensembles: Symbol and Metaphor, Content and Design II

Assigned Reading: Jung, Part 4 pp. 353-271

**Supplementary Bibliography on Reserve List at the Lincoln University Library**

[PRELIMINARY/SAMPLE]


