Art 358 – Arts, Issues, and Controversies

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The study of the interplay within the arts and the role they play in ideology, politics, propaganda, and moral issues. Consideration is given to issues of patronage, advertising, eroticism and pornography, religion, and the visual images of popular culture. Student will be able to articulate the role of the visual arts in society and relate how images serve and challenge dominant human institutions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course opens a series of dialogues on the making, purpose, and individual experience of works of art past and present. We will look at, watch, and listen to works of art. We will look at, watch, and listen to works that may not be art. We will talk with each other about these works, considering when they were made, why, and for whom. What did they look like when they were made? What did they look like from other vantage points in history? What do they look like now? How do they create meaning? What is our role in creating meaning? What is the role of meaning? We will consider religious, political, identity, and moral aspects of art. We will ask about the importance of beauty. How does art function?

Students successfully completing this course will expand their ability to engage in dialogue. Students will acquire a greater tolerance for a diversity of preferences in the making and viewing of works of art.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, students will
1. Develop informed opinions about issues and controversies in art today.
2. Develop historical perspective on issues and controversies in art.
3. Understand the different roles of images and sensory content in fine art, propaganda, advertising and pornography.
4. Engage more effectively in dialogue
5. Improve capacity to gain objective information in emotionally charged areas – to think critically, to listen

READINGS: class handouts and web sources

LEARNING STRATEGIES INCLUDE
-Viewing of works
-Brief lectures
-Dialogue
-Simulations
-Guest speakers
EVALUATION IS BASED ON
- Application of objectives in writing and class participation
  (Which includes listening and the other communication skills along with Talking)
- two short papers in the inquiring style we develop in class
- Final paper
- Attendance at all classes is important. Absences affect your final grade and learning.