



HUMN 2100: ARTS, CULTURE, & MEDIA

Fall 2015

Instructor: Giulia Bernardini, M.A. (bernardg@colorado.edu)

Website: <https://learn.colorado.edu>

Office Hours: WF 3-4:00 pm or by appointment (Math/Engineering Library)

Course description:

In this course, we will undertake **an investigation into the concept of 'culture' through its physical manifestation in various artistic media**. We will begin by analyzing varying – at times conflicting – definitions of culture and will ask and attempt to answer questions relating to the relationship between culture and the artistic media used to represent it.

We'll focus on key works of literature and the visual arts that I've selected to help us formulate and address questions surrounding how art transmits cultural notions of identity, power, and value. As a result, we will follow a **thematic – rather than a chronological** – itinerary although we will endeavor to have a firm grasp of the historic and political context of which each artwork is a part.

My promise to you is that, while we attempt to formulate and answer these questions, you will simultaneously **sharpen your critical thinking skills**: you will become better able to **describe works of art** using the language of **visual analysis**, you will be able to **analyze works of art and literature** by connecting them to contexts and concepts, you will learn how to understand more about a topic and generate your own questions through **careful reading**, and you will be able to **articulate your thoughts** in written, oral, and creative assignments.

In sum, the class offers numerous opportunities to demonstrate strengths and acquire new ones while learning about the transmission of culture through art. It is up to you to make the most of the class. To do this, I ask that you:

1. **Come to class prepared.** Do the readings and assignments and allow yourself to be actively engaged with them. Your learning experience will be all the richer for it.
2. **Share your thoughts** on the subjects we are discussing. It will make the class that much more interesting.
3. **Ask questions.** Don't hesitate to question my ideas or those of your peers, or to ask for clarifications, whether we are discussing an administrative matter or a work of art or literature.

University Policies:

(1) If you qualify for accommodations because of a **disability**, *please submit a letter from Disability Services me within the first two weeks of class* (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. For information, contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. (2) If you have a **temporary medical condition or injury**, see [Temporary Injuries guidelines](#) under the Quick Links at the [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with me. (3) All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to **the academic integrity policy** and the **Classroom and Course-Related Behavior policy**. (4) See the **campus policy regarding religious observances**. (5) CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of **discrimination or harassment**; see the [OIEC website](#) and the [full policy on discrimination and harassment](#).

Classroom policies:

- 1) **Computers:** Computers are not allowed in class. You are welcome to transfer your handwritten notes to a computer outside of class time but you may not use your computer in the classroom unless otherwise stated. It goes without saying that cell phones must be turned off in the classroom.
- 2) **Attendance:** You are allowed three unexcused absences within the semester, **with the exception of Monday September 22nd and Saturday December 6th**. Each additional absence will result in your final grade being lowered incrementally (B to B-, B- to C+, etc.). **Six unexcused absences will result in failure.** Absences can only be excused by me in cases of medical emergency, religious observance, or family emergency. These must be accompanied by valid documentation or addressed in private in my office. **It is fully your responsibility to keep track of your absences.**
 - Where possible, please notify me of your absence as soon as you can. It is a question of courtesy. Also, remember that you are still responsible for the material covered in class on the date(s) of your absence. There will be no make-up quizzes. **Make sure that you have reviewed the academic calendar before planning any trips away!**
- 3) **Tardiness:** Punctuality is imperative as quizzes are administered at the beginning of class. You may not take the quiz if you arrive more than 5 minutes late to class as this will hold up the rest of the class.

Texts:

- Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis* (ISBN 9780375714832)
- Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness* (ISBN 9781848376175)
- **Additional texts (articles and essays) are posted in pdf format on the course website and MUST BE PRINTED OUT.**

Grading Rubric: (subject to change)

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Discussion Lead	10%
CU Culture Project	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments must be turned in in paper form at the end of class unless otherwise specified.

Class Participation: This class is conducted as a large seminar. As a result, speaking up is a significant part of your grade – this keeps things interesting for you and for me. I hope you always feel comfortable enough to ask questions whenever you need to and that you will let me know if you do not.

Quizzes: Your understanding of the readings we are doing for the class will be tested by quizzes or brief assignments. There will be up to 25 quizzes in total, of which your three lowest scores will be dropped.

Discussion Lead: For 15-20 minutes, you and one or two classmates will lead the class discussion on a topic you'll have previously chosen. In order to strengthen your understanding of the topic, you'll be expected to have consulted at least six sources. Your presentation will be accompanied by a handout containing three discussion questions that you'll address to the class and an annotated bibliography of your sources. Subjects will be chosen from the asterisked titles on the class schedule. You must come see me at least one week before you are scheduled to lead discussion.

CU Culture Project*: Details to be discussed.

***Rewrites:** I strongly encourage you to edit and rewrite your CU Culture Project paper if you are not content with the grade you have been given. In order for me to accept a new draft you **must** come see me within one working week from the day I returned the first draft to you, hand it in no later than one week after our meeting, and return the original draft with the revised paper.

Exams: The exams are designed to verify your understanding of the material covered in our class meetings, on the course website, and in our readings and viewings. The nature of each exam will be discussed as we proceed through the semester and we will have review sessions during the week before each exam. If you attend class regularly, take strong notes, participate in class and do the written and reading assignments as they come up, you will do well on the exams.

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, October 21st

Final Exam (includes visit to DAM, Sat 12/5): Sunday, December 11th, 4:30-7:00 pm

Grading scale for participation:

- A: in addition to consistently being prepared for class student does extra work of his or her own initiative; comes to office hours not only with questions about class or performance but also to discuss class content; is a catalyst for fellow classmates, helping them to engage with the material
- A - : always prepared for class, participates often without being called on, makes original and insightful comments and connections; demonstrates full mastery of course goals
- B: generally prepared for class; participates without being called on; demonstrates understanding of course goals and often meets them
- C: adequately prepared for class; only participates when called on; understanding of course goals is not always consistent
- D: preparation less than adequate; never participates unless called on; comments demonstrate a failure to master the course goals
- F: disruptive to class (e.g., talking, continual tardiness, etc.); unprepared when called on; unable or unwilling to participate in class discussions

Grading scale for written projects:

- A: exceptional writing or demonstrated effort put into improvement; student may have sought help from instructor or Writing Center; exceptional form and content
- A - : excellent and original form and content; clean, clear style, no mechanical errors
- B: an above-average, interesting paper with no major flaws
- C: adequately addresses the assignment; a mixture of stylistic strengths and weaknesses
- D: poor in content, form, and mechanics
- F: incoherent, disastrously flawed, or not turned in on time

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS:

- Do the assigned readings and take notes on them
- Take strong notes in class
- Participate in class: ask questions, share knowledge, offer comments
- Form a study group in advance of exams
- Come see me with questions, concerns, and ideas

CLASS SCHEDULE: all elements subject to change

Week 1

- M 8/24 Introduction
W 8/26 Culture: Definition(s); **Read** Baldwin et al., *Redefining Culture*
F 8/28 Culture: Definition(s); **Read** Griswold, "Culture and the Cultural Diamond"

Week 2

- M 8/31 Library Research Tutorial
W 9/2 Culture, Art, & Power: Early 20th cent. Germany - Expressionism and the 'avant-garde,' part I
F 9/4 Culture, Art, & Power: Early 20th cent. Germany - Expressionism and the 'avant-garde,' part II; **Read** Kleiner, "German Expressionism"

Week 3

- M 9/7 No class – Labor Day
W 9/9 Culture, Art, & Power: Early 20th cent. Germany - Expressionism in Film; **Watch** *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*
F 9/11 Culture: Definition(s); **Read** Sturken & Cartwright, *Practices of Looking*

Week 4

- M 9/14 *Culture, Art, & Power: Nazi Germany - Propaganda in Film, part I; **Watch** Riefenstahl, *The Triumph of the Will*
W 9/16 Culture, Art, & Power: Nazi Germany - Propaganda in Film, part II
F 9/18 Culture, Art, & Power: Nazi Germany - Propaganda in Art; **Read** Adam, "The Visualization of National Socialist Ideology"

Week 5

- M 9/21 *Culture, Art, & Power: Nazi Germany - *Entartete Kunst: Degenerate Art*; **Read** Adam, "The Exhibition of Degenerate Art"
W 9/23 Tying Up the Dangly Bits
F 9/25 Work on CU Culture Project

Week 6

- M 9/28 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism; **Turn in CU Culture Project**
W 9/30 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism - *Heart of Darkness*; **Read** Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
F 10/2 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism - *Heart of Darkness*; **Read** Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Week 7

- M 10/5 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism - *Heart of Darkness*; **Read** Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
W 10/7 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism - *Heart of Darkness*; **Read** Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
F 10/9 Tying Up the Dangly Bits

Week 8

- M 10/12 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism - Post-colonial criticism; **Read** Achebe, "An Image of Africa..."
W 10/14 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism - *Apocalypse Now*; **Watch** *Apocalypse Now*
F 10/16 Culture, Art, & Power: Colonialism - Primitivism & *Les demoiselles d'Avignon*; **Read** Antliff & Leighten, "European Primitives"

Week 9

- M 10/19 Midterm Exam Review; **Review** all notes and readings
W 10/21 **Midterm Exam**; **Review** all notes and readings
F 10/23 No class – to make up for Denver Art Museum visit

Week 10

- M 10/26 *Culture, Art, & Identity: Modernism - Cubism; **Read** Antliff & Leighten, *Cubism & Culture*
W 10/28 Culture, Art, & Identity: Modernism - the Short Story, part I; **Read** Woolf, "An Unwritten Novel"
F 10/30 Culture, Art, & Identity: Modernism - the Short Story, part II

Week 11

- M 11/2 Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism - Pop Art & Warhol
W 11/4 *Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism - Pop Art & Warhol; **Read** Shafrazi, *Andy Warhol Portraits*
F 11/6 Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism – the Biopic; **Watch** *I'm Not There*

Week 12

- M 11/9 *Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism – *Persepolis*; **Read** Satrapi, *Persepolis*
W 11/11 Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism – *Persepolis*; **Read** Satrapi, *Persepolis*
F 11/13 Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism – *Persepolis*; **Read** Satrapi, *Persepolis*

Week 13

- M 11/16 Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism – *Persepolis*; **Read** Satrapi, *Persepolis*
W 11/18 Culture, Art, & Identity: Postmodernism – *Persepolis*; **Read** Satrapi, *Persepolis*
F 11/20 No class – to make up for Denver Art Museum visit

(M 11/23 – F 11/27 – No classes: Fall Break)

Week 14

- M 11/30 Culture, Art, & Value: Masters and Masterpieces; **Read** Staniszewski, *What is Art?*
W 12/2 Culture, Art, & Value: Masters and Masterpieces - Leonardo's *Mona Lisa* and the Making of an Icon; **Read** Vasari, *Lives of the Painters...*; Nochlin, "Why Have There Been...?"
F 12/4 *Culture, Art, & Value: Masters and Masterpieces - Leonardo's *Mona Lisa* and the Making of an Icon; **Read** Sassoon, *Becoming Mona Lisa*
Saturday 12/5 **Class at the Denver Art Museum**

Week 15

- M 12/7 *Culture, Art, & Value: Masters and Masterpieces - the Author and the Market; **Watch** *In & Out of Africa*
W 12/9 Tying Up the Last Dangling Bits
F 12/11 Final exam review; **Review all notes and readings since midterm exam**

Sunday 12/11 **Final Exam from 4:30-7:00 pm; Review** all notes and readings since midterm exam