

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
University Honors Program
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866

COURSE SYLLABUS

HON 215
Art and Anthropology

Spring 2010

Catalog Description:

Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. This course will use anthropological approaches to analyze artistic movements and the ideological construction of “art” itself. It will take both western and non-western artifacts as its subject, situating them within larger issues of taste, class, politics, identity and economy. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Course Objectives:

- To gain insight into the general concept of Western art and learn how it creates distinction between the west and non-west, civilized and primitive society.
- To discover how the social construction of art can play a role in social stratification, knowledge and authority.
- To learn more about major movements in Western art and its relationship to non-western art.

Content:

Anthropological approaches will be used in this course to analyze the role of culture in the construction of artistic movements and ideological construction of “art” itself. It will take a cross-cultural comparative approach to understanding the role of aesthetics, politics and economics in the designation and hierarchy of art and artistic categories. It will also examine institutions such as museums and the role of higher education, taste and class in the production and reproduction of western categories of art.

Current Required Texts:

George Marcus and Fred Myers (eds), *The Traffic in Culture*. University of California Press, 1995.

Anthony Shelton and Jeremy Coote (eds) *Art, Anthropology and Aesthetics*. Oxford University Press. 1992.

Instructional strategies:

This course is intended to teach students to understand the cultural context through which the distinction between “art” and “artifact” is manufactured and to examine the role that education, class and institutions have in producing and reproducing these categories. A variety of instructional strategies will be used including lectures, films, presentations, fieldtrips and in-class projects, in addition to traditional methods such as formal papers to assess critical thinking skills and exams. This course is designed to teach students how to critically examine the social construction of art.

Methods of Evaluation:

Students will have weekly short assignments beginning the first week of classes, based on reading and discussion (approximately 30% of grade). In addition, they will have group-assignments and debate and presentations (approximately 20% of grade). They will have a midterm exam (approx 20%) and final paper 30%).

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:

The course syllabus should include the following statement:

Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university

Students with Disabilities Policy:

The course syllabus should include the following statement:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Prepared by:

Stephanie Takaragawa, Spring 2010

Last revised:

Stephanie Takaragawa, Spring 2010