

AHT 199, THE CULTURE OF DISPLAY – THE DISPLAY OF CULTURE
Department of Art History and Visual Culture, Fall 2018



I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Gregory Warden gwarden@fus.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 4-5:30, Thursday 9-10:30 or by appointment.
Academic Mentor: Moriah Simonds moriah.simonds@student.fus.edu

Class location Villa 1 (Kaletsch Campus)
Class meeting times Monday/Thursday 1:00 - 2:15

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will explore the manner in which art, material culture, and cultural heritage are interpreted through their display in public venues. Site visits and case studies will allow students to analyze critically both the theoretical and practical aspects of display.

Topics will include theoretical approaches (phenomenology, semiotics, and aesthetics), the history and culture of collecting and display since the mid-19th century, as well as contemporary critiques of institutional ethics, exclusion, or misrepresentation.

RATIONALE

The First Year Seminar is part of the First Year Experience that connects academic work with other aspects of Franklin such as orientation, advising, academic support, residential life, and co-curricular activities. A foundational piece in the university core, it is required for all incoming students, incoming study abroad students, transfer students with fewer than 30 credits and advanced bridge program students.

COURSE GOALS

The broad goal of this course is to help you adapt to university-level academic expectations. It prepares you for a successful incoming year by introducing you to resources available on campus such as the library and the Writing and Learning Center and emphasizes the development of critical thinking and analytical skills. It also provides opportunities to attain general study and research skills that transfer to other classes both across and up the curriculum.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully pass this course will be able to demonstrate that they:

1. understand and recognize the historical contexts of museum and collecting.
2. understand theoretical approaches to display, including aesthetics, phenomenology, and semiotics.
3. can analyze critically the meaning of cultural display.
4. demonstrate understating of differing definitions of culture.
5. demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively.

READINGS

- Carol Duncan, *Civilizing Rituals, inside public art museums*.
- Selections from Peter Vergo, *The New Museology*; Edward P. Alexander. *Museums in Motion*; and other selected readings.
- Kate L. Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 15th edition, available at the bookstore.

Specific readings will be posted on Moodle.

You are encouraged to take advantage of the internet as a way to visit distant and inaccessible places of display. New sites are springing up all the time, so if you find great cyberspaces of this sort, please share them with the class. One of the questions we will explore is virtual display!

ASSESSMENT

The course grade will be based on the following:

<u>Quizzes</u> (there will be at least two)	10%
<u>Assignment #1: Exhibition Review</u>	10%
Due: September 17 500 Words	
We will visit the Museo delle Culture in the Villa Malpensata, Lugano. Their exhibit, " <i>Gioie fra i Capelli</i> ," opens on September 8. Your paper will critically review its goals and impact using terminology and ideas that we will have discussed in this course.	
<u>Assignment #2: Exhibition Review</u>	15%
Due: October 8 500 Words	
The exhibit, Magritte, " <i>Ligne de Vie</i> ," opens at the Lugano Art Center on September 16. You will write a review incorporating your research on the historical context of Magritte and the Surrealist movement.	
<u>Assignment # 3: Longer Exhibition Review with Context/Research</u>	20%
Due: November 12 2000 WORDS	
ACADEMIC TRAVEL ASSIGNMENT	
<u>Showcase/collaborative assignment</u>	20%
December 7	
This is a creative assignment that emphasizes collaboration and team work. Teams and topics will be chosen on November 15.	
<u>Class Participation</u>	25%
This grade will be based on participation in class and on excursions. You will also be asked to prepare talking points or background information for discussion. Additionally, you must demonstrate that you have attended three extracurricular events: 2 <i>Tutte le Strade</i> events and the Alcohol Awareness Session.	
<u>Attendance is required. You get one unexcused absence; any other unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction of the final grade. Excuses for illness or family emergencies must be documented. Assignments must be submitted by 1 PM Lugano time on the due date. No exceptions. No excuses.</u>	
GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS	
A = Excellent. Your work is exceptional. You are articulate, organized, original, and have superb command of the material.	
B = Good. Your work is above average and shows a thorough understanding of the assignment. You use your sources well, argue logically, are organized, and write well	
C = Adequate. Your work is acceptable at the college level. It follows the assignment, meets the basic standards in terms of relevance, factual accuracy, and logic.	

D = Inadequate. You do not meet the standards for acceptable college-level work, but your assignment does exhibit some positive qualities.

F = Fail. Your work does not deserve college-level credit and is unacceptable. You may have not followed the assignment, or your final product may reveal little or no understanding of the material. You exhibit a lack of basic academic skills or your writing may not be comprehensible, for instance with many mechanical errors or little understanding of the citation/documentation process.

HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE

Attendance is essential, as is participation. Do the readings before coming to class. Do not wait until the last minute to do the assignments. Plan ahead and talk to us when you have questions.

You will get more from the lectures if you do the readings before class. Read for concepts and ideas rather than trying to memorize facts.

You will be asked to do the readings and produce talking points.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated, see the official Franklin University Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism in the Academic Catalogue:

https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2016_2018_web.pdf

So, behaviors that must be avoided include:

- Cheating on exams
- Paying someone to do your work
- Reusing someone else's work
- Resubmitting your own previous work
- Fabricating evidence
- Plagiarism, including over-paraphrasing, even when properly cited.

If you have any questions, please talk to me or to Moriah.

In case of a violation you will get 0 points for the assignment and be reported to the Academic Dean.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Franklin University and the larger Lugano Community have several services that can help you with this course. These are:

Your Professor: Don't be a stranger! Come talk to me during office hours or whenever I am available. If my office door is open, that means that you can come in. My office hours are Mondays 4-5:30, Thursdays 9:00-10:30, and also by appointment. You can make an appointment by emailing me or my assistant, Frances Atkinson fatkinson@fus.edu. Frances is in the office in M, W, Th, F mornings and Tuesday afternoons.

Your Academic Mentor: Moriah Simonds has gone through this process and is available to help you with all aspects of the course.

Moodle site: The Moodle site for this course provides copies of all assignments for the course as well as places for you to upload your papers.

Writing and Learning Center: (Lowerre Academic Center) for all writing and learning support issues: time management, study skills, preparing for exams, reading and presentation skills, and all steps of the writing process from brainstorming a paper to outlining, editing to proofreading.

Disability Services: If you have a documented learning disability or think you may need psycho-educational testing, please make an appointment for further assistance.

Technology Help: Lowerre Academic Center, ground floor, for all computer related problems. Please stop by or contact the IT help desk (help@fus.edu) for all computer issues.

Grace Library: Grace Library has a number of resources available for you to use including reference works, books on the shelf, and databases. You will also need to use the library to research material for your own papers. Our library staff will be happy to help you find resources.

Università Svizzera Italiana: Via G. Buffi 13, 6900 Lugano. The university in downtown Lugano has a library with different books, journals, and databases than ours. They are particularly strong in business and many of their resources are in English. All Franklin University students can use this library on site and you also have the possibility of obtaining a library card for CHF 20.00, which will allow you to take out books. Website: <http://www.bul.unisi.ch/>