

Spring 202-
ART 3103- 130: Call and Response
 Wednesday 4 pm – 7 pm EST
 Instructor: TK Smith (He/ Him)
 Email:

Course Description:

This seminar is an interdisciplinary reading and discussion-based course that offers historical and cultural context to contemporary art and culture. Pulling from such subjects as literature, musicology, and philosophy, we will explore fundamental questions on human expression. What is it to express oneself and what is at stake? We will approach these questions from multiple vantage points –as maker, as subject, as consumer– using a contemporary intersectional lens. We will read texts from such scholars as Gloria E. Anzaldúa, bell hooks, and Michel-Ralph Trouillot to inform and add nuance to our conversations. We will engage film, poetry, and music, such as Joni Mitchell’s 1971 *Blue* album. Through reading and discussion, this course intends to offer students new ways of understanding who we are, why we make art, and the impact that art can have on the world.

Course Objectives:

- The primary goal of this course is to allow students the time and resources to learn and participate in close reading, watching, and listening. Through dialogue and exchange the students will practice articulating their own ideas in oral and written formats.
- Students will participate and lead class discussions through description, reflection, questions, and suggestions in the evaluation of the work’s content, function, problems, references, and contexts.
- Students will be taught the fundamentals of art criticism and will write their own.
- Students will leave the course with the skills necessary to conduct a formal presentation.
- Students will leave this course able to recognize and identify the interconnected relationships between art, history, culture, and conflict.

Required Books:

Books will be provided for students on the first in-person meeting

- bell hooks, *Art on My Mind: Visual Politics*
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*
- Gloria E. Anzaldúa *Borderlands/ La Frontera*

Calendar (Abridged):

Section 1: Alternative Canons

Come to the first class having read Alice Walker’s “In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens” from emailed pdf

January 25: Introduction to Course

- In-class: Discuss “In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens”
- In-class: Read “Introduction Art Matters” and “Art on my Mind” from *Art on My Mind*
- In-class: View Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust*
- **Assignment: Read: *Art on My Mind*, page 10 – 53 (Specific sections forthcoming)**
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

February 1:

- In-class: View Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust*
- In-class: Discuss *Art on My Mind*, page 10 – 53
- In-class: Read “In Our Glory: Photography and Black Life” from *Art on My Mind*
- **Assignment: Read *Art on My Mind*, page 65 – 100 (Specific sections forthcoming)**
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

February 8:

FIRST EXHIBITION REVIEW DUE

GUEST:

- In-class: View Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust*
- In-class: Discuss *Art on My Mind*, page 65 - 100
- **Assignment: *Art on My Mind*, page 101 – 132 (Specific sections forthcoming)**
- **Assignment: Read *Guardian* article by bell hooks, “Beyoncé’s Lemonade is capitalist money-making at its best”**
- **Bonus Assignment: Read *Paper Magazine* “Hardcore Honey: bell hooks Goes on the Down Low with Lil' Kim”**
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

February 15:

- In-class: Watch Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*
- In-class: Discuss *Art on My Mind*, page 101 - 132
- In-class: Read “Being the subject of art” from *Art on My Mind*
- In-class: portrait activity

February 22:

PRESENTATION 1

- In-class: Reveal Portraits
- In-class: Read “Black Vernacular”
- **Assignment: *Art on My Mind*, page 152– 193 (Specific sections forthcoming)**
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

March 1:

- In-class: Discuss *Art on My Mind* 152 – 193
- In-class: Read “The Radiance of Red”

Section 2: Alternative Histories

March 8:

GUEST PRESENTATION:

- In- Class: Read Forward and Chapter 1 of *Silencing the Past*
- In-class: Watch Raoul Peck's *Exterminate All the Brutes* episode 1
- **Assignment: *Silencing the Past* Chapter 2**
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

March 15:

- In-class: Discuss *Silencing the Past* Chapter 2
- In-class: Watch Raoul Peck's *Exterminate All the Brutes* episode 2
- **Assignment: *Silencing the Past* Chapter 3**
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

March 22:

SECOND EXHIBITION REVIEW DUE

- In-class: Discuss *Silencing the Past* Chapter 3
- In-class: Read *Silencing the Past* Chapter 4 & Epilogue
- In-class: Watch Raoul Peck's *Exterminate All the Brutes* episode 4
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

March 29:

THEATER DAY

April 5: **SPRING BREAK NO CLASS**

- **Assignment: Listen to Joni Mitchell's *Blue* (Links to an external site.)**

Section 3: Beyond Bodies

April 12:

- In-class: Discuss Joni Mitchell's *Blue*
- In-class: Read *Borderlands/ La Frontera* (pages TBD)
- In-class Watch Derek Jarman's *BLUE*
- In- class: Read *ART PAPERS* "Blue Cripistemologies: In and Around Derek Jarman," Christopher Robert Jones
- **Assignment: Read *Borderlands/ La Frontera***
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading**

April 19:

- In-class: Discuss *Borderlands/ La Frontera*
- In-class: Read *Borderlands/ La Frontera*
- In Class: Self-Portrait Activity
- In-Class: Listen to Audre Lorde's "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power"
- **Assignment: Read *Borderlands/ La Frontera***
- **Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading.**

April 26:

- In-class: Reveal Self Portraits
- In-class: Discuss *Borderlands/ La Frontera*
- In-class: Read *Borderlands/ La Frontera*
- Assignment: *Borderlands/ La Frontera*
- Assignment: Enter 5 questions into shared google doc for class discussion on reading

May 3: Last Day of Courses

- In-class: Discuss *Borderlands/ La Frontera*
- In-class: Read *Borderlands/ La Frontera*

Finals:

Date TBA:

GUEST PRESENTATION

- **FINAL PRESENTATIONS**