Department of Cultural & Religious Studies  
(CULS 5412A) Visual Research Methods

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Fall Semester 2019-2020  
Mondays 6:45pm – 9:30pm (Room 303, Esther Lee Bldg.)

Credit Units: 3  
Course Duration: one semester  
Medium of Instruction: English  
Teaching/learning activities: lectures, in-class discussions, & seminars

Course Description

This course introduces critical perspectives and influential theoretical debates on art and culture for deepening innovative projects and artistic creations by drawing on frameworks in art history, new media and visual cultural studies. Students will learn analytical conceptions as well as research methods for aesthetic and contextual analysis of artworks in the forms of painting, sculpture, installation, performance art, new media or digital art, etc. Students will also learn major 20th-century artistic developments significant in the west, China, and Hong Kong. Thus, students will acquire knowledge of contemporary art and skills of applying critical perspectives when analyzing artworks in various forms.

Learning Activities

The course combines theoretical lecturing through viewing artworks that support and reinforce the topic of discussion for each week. Students need to actively participate in discussing weekly readings and course materials. Students are required to complete the readings beforehand for each unit of the course. Students are also required to engage in interactive learning activities by presenting an exhibition virtually curated based on at least one analytical conception/critical perspective as discussed in the course. The details will be announced in the first meeting.

Assessment Structure (details will be provided in separate documents available in due course)

- Exhibition curatorial leaflet (20%)
- Seminar presentation (30%)
- Final paper (50%)
COURSE CONTENTS & READINGS

Unit 1: History of Art History and Hegelian Perspective on Art (2 Sep)

Unit 2: Formalism and Iconography & Iconology (9 Sep)

Unit 3: Marxist and Neo-Marxist & Social Historical Perspectives (16 Sep)

Unit 4: Orientalism and Exoticism (23 Sep)

Unit 5: Cross-Cultural Perspectives (23 Sep)

Unit 6: Post-Modernism and Globalism (30 Sep)

Unit 7: Critical Conceptions on the City and the Body (14 Oct)

Unit 8: Field Trip – Art & Cultural Places (on 12 Oct or 19 Oct or 23 Nov Sat afternoon-To Be Confirmed) (NO class on 21 Oct)
Details and notes will be finalized and provided in separate documents available in due course.

Unit 9: Fauvism & Expressionism and Seminar 1 on Unit 2 (28 Oct)

Unit 10: Cubism & Geometric Abstraction and Seminar 2 on Unit 3 (4 Nov)

Unit 11: Abstract Expressionism & Pop Art and Seminar 3 on Unit 4 & Unit 5 (11 Nov)

Unit 12: Performance Art, Minimal Art & Conceptual Art and Seminar 4 on Unit 6 (18 Nov)

Unit 13: Contemporary Chinese Art and Seminar 5 on Unit 7 (25 Nov)
Evans, Harriet, “‘Comrade Sisters’: Gendered Bodies and Spaces.” In Picturing Power in the People’s Republic of China: Posters of the Cultural Revolution, edited by Harriet Evans and


**Final Paper Due (2 Dec)**
Late papers will **NOT** be accepted. Details will be provided in a separate document available in due course.

**Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers**
The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of **ZERO tolerance** on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. Students must submit their assignments via the Webpage of the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine (CUPIDE) [http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student](http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student).

Although cases of cheating or plagiarism are rare at the University, everyone should make himself/herself familiar with the content of this website and thereby help avoid any practice that would **NOT** be acceptable.

**Section 1 What is plagiarism**
[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p01.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p01.htm)

**Section 2 Proper use of source material**

**Section 3 Citation styles** [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p03.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p03.htm)

**Section 4 Plagiarism and copyright violation**

**Section 5 CUHK regulations on honesty in academic work**
[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p05.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p05.htm)

**Section 6 CUHK disciplinary guidelines and procedures**
[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p06.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p06.htm)

**Section 7 Guide for teachers and departments**
Section 8 Recommended material to be included in course outlines
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p08.htm

Section 9 Recommended declaration to be included in every assignment handed in
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p09.htm

Section 10 Electronic submission of term papers