Fall 2020

HL4041 Studies in Art Criticism and Culture

Thursday, 2.30pm-5.30pm
Asst Prof Michelle Lim

Email: mlim@ntu.edu.sg
Office: ART 4-6 (office hours by appointment)

TA: Sue Lee (soojin001@e.ntu.edu.sg)

This course will be held both on-campus and online.

Course Description

This course will provide a historical survey of art criticism’s development and introduce different critical approaches to writing about art and culture. The course focuses on (1) historical origins and modern development of art criticism (2) concepts, theories and philosophies underpinning major schools/bodies of thought in art criticism (3) the relationship between text and works of art/film/architecture (4) developing an approach to critical thinking and writing about art and culture. A selection of texts from a wide cultural range will be considered, in relation to key works from different times and cultures.

Course Requirements

Class Participation 10%
Continuous Written Assignments 20%
Presentations 40%
Final Research Essay 30%
PRELIMINARY CLASS SCHEDULE*

* Readings subject to change/addition.

**Week 1**
**Introduction**
Vasari, Giorgio  
*The Lives of the Artists* - extract

**Week 2**
**Modern Art Criticism**
Baudelaire, Charles  
*Painter of Modern Life*
Greenberg, Clement  
*Towards a Newer Laocoon*

**Week 3**
**Frankfurt School/Post War**
Benjamin, Walter  
*The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*

**Week 4**
**Art and Site**
Field trip

**Week 5**
**Photography** (online)
Barthes, Roland  
*Camera Lucida* – extract
Sontag, Susan  
*On Photography*

**Week 6**
**Translation and Review** (online)
Barthes, Roland  
Travels to China

**Week 7**
**Art in Local Context** (online)
Field trip to NUS Museum

**Week 8**
no class (recess week)

**Week 9**
**Post-Modernism** (online)
Krauss, Rosalind  
*Sculpture in an Expanded Field*

**Week 10**
**Film** (online)
Tarkovsky, Andrei  
*Sculpting in Time* - extract

*Nostalghia* (film)
Week 11  
Contemporary Culture (online)  
Selections from major art and cultural journals / newsmedia  

Week 12  
Research Presentations  

Week 13  
Politics and Ethics (online)  
Didion, Joan  
Sentimental Journeys  

Week 14  
Criticism in Practice (online)  
Guest speaker  

Final Assignment (8-10 pages) due.  

No exceptions unless with prior permission or medical reason.