WRTG 3020 WRITING ABOUT ART
Professor Angeline
MWF
Duane G39
Office hours: T/TH 10-11, -2-3 & by appointment

PLEASE email me for an appointment as I sometimes wander away from my office to smell the roses. Also, Please feel free to email me At Any Time with any question or concern you may have about this course...Not your love life, criminal actions, roommate problems, or religious doubts.

3020 Writing about ART
This course will examine literature, art magazines, scholarly essays, art criticism and general writing about the arts. Visual analysis addresses both the art works formal elements as well as historical context and interpretation of meanings. Students do not need to be “artists”. You should though have a general interest and appreciation of the Arts and a readiness to take that appreciation a step further by exploring art via the writing process. Writing 3020 requires fifty pages of writing.

Required Texts
PORNOGRAPHER OF VIENNA BY LEWIS CROFTS
RILKE’S LETTERS TO A YOUNG POET BY RILKE
SKINNY LEGS AND ALL BY TOM ROBBINS

SUGGESTED Texts: But is it Art by Cynthia Vreeland  Oxford Press
Ways of Seeing by John Berge

POSSIBLE Films:
Basquiat
Wasteland
Beautiful Losers
Ai Weiwei Never Sorry

The FOLLOWING I WILL POOVIDE BY PDF
A Short Guide to Writing about Art by Sylvan Barnet  (pdf)

Concerning The Spiritual in Art by Kandinsky

Assignments
Two formal papers of 5-7 page length 15% each for 30% of grade
We will practice visual analysis in three of the papers. The purpose of a visual analysis is to recognize and understand the visual choices the artist made in creating the artwork. By observing and writing about separate parts of the art object, you will – hopefully-- come to a better understanding of the art object as a whole.
A THIRD paper will be a review of an “ART EVENT” a gallery show, a performance art piece, fashion show, student art exhibition, Denver art Museum, CU art museum show, etc. You will need to clear your “event” with me before going forward with your project. Please be on the look out for Art Happenings in Boulder and nearby. This will be your last paper due. So get started NOW on looking around and taking notes and making multiple visits to your event of choice. This paper is worth 20% 
THIS SHOULD BE A FOUR PAGE PAPER.

SEVERAL RESPONSE PAPERS ON EKPHASIS, FILMS, NOVELS. 30%

Final project: WEB SITE  5 pages min. on an artist or art event of your choice. I will have final approval on your web subject. You may want to expand upon a paper you have written.  Final project worth 20%

How to succeed in this course

Much of the success of this class (and your success along with it) will depend upon participation in-class as well as out of it. This is not a "freebie" percentage of the grade; I do expect that everyone in class be joining in discussion regularly. I also expect you to treat your classmates respectfully when we are having discussions, and to contribute your fair share of intellectual energy when we are working in groups, reading aloud, or conversing. Please be cognizant of the fact that we all have different experiences and beliefs that we will be bringing to these texts and, as such, no one should be shutting down anyone else’s ideas out of hand.

General Course Polices
Absence and Tardiness
In a discussion-based classroom, the attendance and participation of every student is necessary for the success and effectiveness of the class as a whole. For this reason, students are expected to attend every class. However, I understand that illness and adverse circumstance are undeniable facts of life. For that reason, I have built into my absence policy three "freebies." Do not take them unless you need them, as the only kind of absence that I will excuse is an absence for a school-sanctioned event (in which case, you absolutely must meet with me in advance). In other words, illness, even with a doctor's note, is still an unexcused absence, so don't waste your freebies. I will mark your final grade down by 1/2 of a letter grade for every absence in excess of four.

Please NOTE! If you are absent on the day your papers are due with copies for peer review you will not only miss out on the peer review points but be marked for TWO days absence. It is critical that you show up with a rough draft of your final paper.

Work Submission
I do have a late work policy for the major written assignments in the course. For every day (not class period) that the assignment is late you will lose a third of a letter grade. If a paper is posted to me after than the beginning of class on the day it is due, it will be considered a day late. If your paper would have otherwise been an A, and you turn it in two days late, you’ll be down to a B+. In-class assignments will not be accepted late.

**Electronic Devices**
All electronic devices should be turned off and stowed prior to the beginning of class so that they cannot disrupt class discussion. Repeated failure to do so will result in me asking you to leave class. While I’m compassionate to the forgetful (I won’t kick you out if your cell phone goes off once because you forgot about it) I will not tolerate the use of cell phone texting or games in my class; in such a situation you will get no other warning than this written one before you are asked to leave. If you are asked to leave class you will be marked absent.

**Preparedness and Class Conduct**
It is important that we are always prepared for class and that we treat each other with respect at all times. You should always bring the text we are working on to class, as well as your course notebook and a writing instrument. We are using PAPER in this class on a daily basis though we will go to the internet to check out Art we may be discussing. People who sit with an open laptop will be asked to leave the class.

**Anything provided via PDF file should be printed out.** If you do not have the required text for the day you will be asked to leave class and will be marked absent. I reserve the right to do random "book checks" throughout the semester, and if you do not have the required text you will be marked absent.

You should also come to class having read the reading assignment completely, ready to share your thoughts with your classmates. And keep in mind, we may discuss readings in class that deal with sensitive issues, or personal beliefs. Despite differing opinions you should always treat one another with sensitivity to diversity, with tolerance, and with respect. You should also behave maturely during class discussions. Harassing, demeaning, belittling, or disrespectful behavior toward anyone will not be tolerated.

**University Policies**
**Students with Disabilities**
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or See [Http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

**Religious Holidays**
Campus policy requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams,
assignments or required attendance. In this class, I expect that you will contact me a full week (2 class periods) in advance of the date so that I have time to meet with you to verify the date and to discuss with you about what you will miss. See Http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion, and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and nationalities. See http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Honor Code
All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. I will report all incidents of academic misconduct to the Honor Code Council. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). See http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

Discrimination and sexual harassment
The University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. For information and campus resources see http://www.colorado.edu/odh.
Jan
M 12 Introduction to Course
W 14 Survey discussion
F 16 Discussion

M 19 Read Pornographer of Vienna
W 21
F 23 Read POV

M 26 Discussion of POV
W 28 Discussion of POV
F 30 Discussion of POV

FEB
M 2 assignment/discussion of POV
W 4 assignment/discussion of POV
F 6 First draft of paper due with 4 copies
Discussion of Peer Review Process

M 9 Peer reviews due Begin Discussion on Rilke Poems
W 11 Rilke's first three letters discussion
F 13 Final paper due

M 16 Basquiat Film
W 18 Basquait Film
F 20 paper due two page response to Letters to Young Poet Film

M23 Discussion on strategies to write response on Film
W 25 Visit Museum on Campus
F 27 Discussion on strategies to write on museum visit. Future independent ART visit.

MARCH
M 2 Response paper due on Basquiat & Rilke Begin presentations of independent art project
W 4 Presentation of independent project
F 6 Presentation of insdependent project

M 9 Proposal due for final website
W 11 Wasteland Film
F 13 Wasteland

M 16 Wasteland
W 18 Discussion of Wasteland
F 20 Free Day for Art!
M 23 YAY
W 25 SPRING
F 27 BREAK

MARCH
M 30  In class workshop on papers

APRIL
W  1  class workshop on papers
F  3  class workshop on papers

M  6  DIY presentation of WIX
W  8
F 10

M 13
W 15
F 17 Final web site presentation

M 20 “” “”
W 22 “” “”
F 24 “” “”

M 27 “” “”
W 29 “” “”

MAY

F  1  LAST CLASS

NO FINAL MEETING IN THIS CLASS DURING FINALS WEEK.
How to begin writing about art

The following is taken from Sylvan Barnet, *A Short Guide to Writing about Art* (New York: Longman, 1997) Please keep these actions in mind while designing your paper.

**Actions to Take**
To write a visual analysis, you must look closely at an art object—or at a photograph of an art object—and translate your visual observations into written text. However, a visual analysis does not simply record your observations. It also makes a claim about the work of art.
· **Observe the artwork and write down your observations.** Be precise. Consider the
composition, colors, textures, size, space, and other visual and material attributes of the artwork. Go beyond your first impressions. This should take some time—allow your eye to absorb the image. Making a sketch of the work can help you understand its visual logic.

· **Formulate a main claim.** Your claim might do one of the following:
  o Reflect on the overall organization of the work of art, e.g.
  
  o Consider how formal elements impact the meaning of the artwork, e.g. “Rembrandt’s use of chiaroscuro heightens the sense of drama in The Night Watch [Figure 2].”
  
  o Relate this work relates to other works you have studied, considering how is it similar to and different from these objects, e.g. “This Egyptian sculpture combines a highly conventional symmetrical style with mild asymmetry and a degree of realism [Figure 3].”

· **Support your main claim with visual details.**
  o Analyze the form of the artwork: line, color, shape, texture, and material are good places to start.
  
  o Target your description. Address only those elements relevant to your main claim.
  
  o Organize your observations in a logical order.
  
  ▪ You might, for example, follow a line through the painting, moving from the background to the foreground, or from left to right. Consider beginning with composition and moving to material, or vice versa. Many approaches are possible; choose a structure that makes sense for your main claim.