



Art History

COLD WAR ART & POLITICS

AH 3642F / MSC 3642F – Fall 2023 course syllabus



Ana Mendieta, *Silueta Works in Mexico*, 1973–77/1991, ICA Boston

COURSE DESCRIPTION

By the time the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as superpowers after the Second World War, the utopian dreams of pre-war modernism had shattered. Artists, intellectuals, and other cultural practitioners, struggling to come to terms with the horrors of the war and the threat of nuclear annihilation, explored alternate visions. Taking a thematic approach, this course examines art and exhibitions of the Cold War (1947-1991) in Europe and North America in relation to the social and political context of the period. We consider major movements in art, alongside the issues that influenced them: abstract expressionism and individualism versus collectivism; international exhibitions and cultural diplomacy; pop art and the rise of mass consumerism; conceptual art, performance, and political movements; appropriation and the growth of corporate culture, and more.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- explain the relation between key artistic movements of the period 1947-91 and the social and political context of the Cold War

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on lands connected to several Treaties including Treaty 6 London Township, Treaty 7 Sombra Township, Treaty 21 Longwoods and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

- describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of art works using appropriate terminology and discuss artworks in relation to stylistic movements
- analyze the role of cultural diplomacy during the Cold War
- conduct research using library resources, including books and databases, and use the sources effectively in an academic essay
- articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter arguments
- participate constructively in online discussions and respond respectfully to the views of others

PREREQUISITE / ANTI-REQUISITE

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Art History 1640 or two of Art History 1641A/B-1648A/B, or the former VAH 1040 or two of the former VAH 1041A/B–1045A/B, or permission of the Department.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS _____

Technical Requirements



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer with microphone and speakers (camera optional)

For technical assistance, check the [OWL Help page](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). Phone 519-661-3800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to use for OWL.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be announced on the OWL site.

The last day to drop this course without academic penalty is **November 12, 2023**.

Required Readings

Required text for this course:

Additional required readings are posted as PDFs on OWL.

ASSESSMENTS _____

DUE DATES & GRADING

Assignment	Due date	Grading
Participation on VoiceThread	Weekly	15%
Quizzes on readings and lectures	Weekly	25%
Written assignment	Nov 20 @ 10 am to Nov 26 @ 11 pm	30%

Research essay	Dec 4 @ 11 pm	30%
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PARTICIPATION – 10% (weekly)

The participation portion of your grade will be based your contributions to online discussions and activities in VoiceThread. Please note that even though the course is asynchronous, there is a weekly schedule. You are expected to complete course work on a weekly basis, and this includes contributions to online discussions.

WEEKLY QUIZZES – 25% (weekly)

The weekly quizzes on the readings and lesson videos are multiple choice format and are completed in OWL. Each quiz has five questions and is not timed, except that you must complete each quiz during the week it is assigned. Use these quizzes to help guide your reading and for feedback on how well you are understanding the lecture material. Any quiz that is not completed on time will receive a grade of 0, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped when final grades are calculated.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT – 25%

The written assignment is based on the weekly readings and lecture videos and assesses the weekly learning outcomes. The assignment is comprised of short answer and essay questions. You will have approximately one week to complete this, in addition to the lessons assigned for that week.

RESEARCH ESSAY – 30%

Your research essay should be approximately 8 pages / 2000 words. Select one of the questions from the supplied list and address it in your final essay. Your thesis will be your answer to the question. If you would like to propose your own question, you are required to send it to me for approval by October 27. You should use at least five published sources for your research. Include a bibliography at the end of your paper. Your bibliography may include books, journal articles, and exhibition catalogues. (Reputable websites can be used, but they do not count towards the five sources). Include images (with captions) that are important for your argument. Submit the research essay as a Word document or PDF in the Assignments section of OWL.

POLICIES ON LATE OR MISSED ASSESSMENTS

Academic Consideration

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Dean’s Office of the student’s Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. These documents will be retained in the student’s file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University’s [Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy](#). Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic consideration shall be determined by the Dean’s Office in consultation with the student’s instructor(s).

Academic consideration may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic consideration shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration, and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics: A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Documentation from Student Health Services: At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments: Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Late Assignments & Grace Days

A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor. To minimize requests for extensions, each of you will have two grace days to use on the written assignment or the visual analysis essay. In other words, no late penalties will be applied to these assignments until **after** you've used these two days. You can use them all at once (i.e. hand an assignment two days late and still get full marks), or you can use them for different assignments. You cannot use the grace days for VoiceThread participation or Quizzes. However, **please note that the last opportunity to submit coursework is December 8, 2023, at 11:59 pm.**

Once you've used up your grace days, the grade penalty is 5% for each calendar day, **including weekends**, that it is late. All late assignments, whether covered by the grace days or not, will be subject to the following conditions:

1. Late papers may be graded and returned later than those submitted by the deadline
2. Minimal comments will be provided

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work for the course **MUST** be entirely your own. All sources that you use for your assignments must be accurately cited. If you have doubts about how and when to cite sources, it is better to err on the side of caution. Consult the academic integrity lesson on OWL and / or consult with me before assignment due dates. All course work must be completed specifically for this course. Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course is considered cheating. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offences, and they will be dealt with strictly. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement; adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement; submitting someone else's work, in any form, without acknowledgement; knowingly representing another person's idea as one's own.

For information concerning Western's Plagiarism and Academic Offences (Scholastic Offences) policies see: www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html#

All assignments are subject to review through plagiarism detection software. The University uses Turnitin.com for this purpose. Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism tool that screens assignments against a database of the Internet, e-journals, e-

books, and a range of other scanned material, including other assignments for this course. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

Multiple choice quizzes

Computer-marked multiple-choice quizzes may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

AI & ChatGBT

In this course, students are only permitted to use AI tools for preliminary research and information gathering. It is imperative that students critically evaluate any information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can only serve as a starting point for exploration, and students must follow the principles of academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should demonstrate students' own thoughts and independent work.

CITATION STYLE

The Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities format, is the standard style for art history. Use this style to cite your sources for your research paper and other assignments. Please refer to the guide in OWL and the Library website for examples: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>.

POLICIES & CONDUCT

Student Conduct

Students will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university students. Student conduct shall be consistent with the general laws of the community and with University regulations. Students shall show regard and respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University community and are expected to act in a responsible manner within the University and the community at large.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

I am committed to fostering a class environment that is comfortable for all students, especially those from marginalized or underrepresented backgrounds. These core values include using preferred gender pronouns and human-centred language, which convey respect for people's diverse experiences. We do not always have to agree with one another; however, everyone is expected to show respect for the views of other people.

Academic Sanctions

In instances of non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record. When an academic record is sealed, the student will not be able to: a) view grades; b) register in future courses; c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma; d) obtain admission or readmission.

Additional Course Material Request Policy

For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor's discretion. Requests for additional material can only be made in cases necessitating academic accommodation. If a student requires Academic Accommodation for the course material, they can contact Western's Academic Support & Engagement department. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change):

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:00pm each night Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00pm-5:00pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm and 5:00pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

Academic Accommodation

For Western's complete Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities see https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html. Please visit the Accessible Education for assistance with a academic accommodation. Students who want to request academic

accommodation must register with the Centre, meet with a counselor, and provide appropriate documentation. See http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html for more information.

Religious Accommodation

For purposes of this policy “the University has approved a list of dates which are recognized religious holidays which require members of those religions to be absent from the University; this list is updated annually and is available at departmental, Deans’ and Faculty advising Offices.” For Western’s Policy on Religious Holidays see https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html.

Professionalism & Privacy

In addition to following the [Student Code of Conduct](#) Western students are expected to adhere to the following expectations of professional conduct:



- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to uphold academic integrity standards
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material is copyrighted and using this material for any purposes other than your own education contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings. Do not post course material on any websites or platforms.

RESOURCES

Office Hours / Email

Office hours will be held on Zoom. Please see me during my office hours if you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, including readings or assignments. If you cannot make it during office hours, arrange an appointment or contact me by email. I will make every effort to reply to email within one to two business days. As I have other professional and personal responsibilities, I typically respond to email Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Health and Wellness

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms:

There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the JLVAC. One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO: http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf. Please contact the Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston (meghan.edmiston@uwo.ca) for card access to the elevator and stairs to access the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.

Gender-based and Sexual Violence:

Western [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Available to students enrolled in the course.

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VISUAL ARTS Art History/Museum and Curatorial studies Grade Descriptors

90-100 (Outstanding, A+) The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding research, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A) The writing shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding research, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+) The writing shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding research, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B) The writing shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding research, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C) The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D) The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F) The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.