

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## ART 270: Visual Culture: Practices in Critical Looking

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

This course explores how different visual media from fine art, mass media, science and everyday life intersect to form a cultural discourse, and develops ways to critically observe and engage this discourse. Different ways of seeing and interpreting visual images (from painting, advertisements, graffiti, tattoos, maps, film, social media, architecture, etc.) will be developed. Visual imagery interpreted in different media and contexts will be investigated as they correlate with political and social power, globalism, gender, race, sexual identity, space, and other social questions and institutions. MnTC Goal 2.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 02/01/2015 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Social media and global identity
2. Defining Visual Culture
3. Defining Visual Images---Pictures, Symbols, Signs etc.
4. Different Visual Modes---Looking, Seeing, Vision, and the Gaze
5. High Brow/Low Brow Imagery
6. Political Images---Subjects and Objects
7. Place and Space in Visual Culture

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Explore passive versus active engagement with imagery and visual culture.
2. Explore the variety, presence, and impact of imagery in daily life.
3. Investigate the social/political effect of representing ideas and people through imagery.
4. Learn and use methods to critique and read images from various media.
5. Learn to extrapolate and expand an image in writing; critical argument formulation.
6. Understand how art and popular media intersect and interact.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### **Goal 02 - Critical Thinking**

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted