Art and Society

Module code: 4ELIT007X
Module Level: 4
Length: Three Weeks
Host course: London International Virtual Summer Programme
Pre-requisite: None
Assessment: 60% Essay, 40% Presentation

Summary of module content

This module is an introduction to the visual culture of London, including painting, sculpture, photography and contemporary media. The course will use examples of London's major art galleries to examine how art works, exhibitions and cultural organisations can be understood within wider social contexts. The sessions will focus on collections from museums, such as the British Museum, as well as art works from art galleries such as National Gallery and Tate Modern. The classes will explore how these institutions reveal the complex cultural identity and history of London. The module develops students' skills in visual analysis and critical thinking about culture.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module the successful student will be able to:

- Demonstrate ability to make a visual analysis of works of art
- Demonstrate an understanding of visual arts
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which historical displays and sites can be related to a political, social or cultural context
- Discuss the role of London as a cultural centre
- Develop appropriate skills in academic presentation and writing

Course outcomes the module contributes to:

Students will be able to demonstrate: NA

NB This module does not form part of the BA English Literature and cannot be taken by students on this pathway.

Indicative Syllabus Content

- The role of museums presenting collections contributing to public knowledge of history, culture and society: The British Museum.
- Looking at master paintings: The National Gallery.
- Portraiture and Identity: The National Portrait Gallery.
- Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: The Courtauld Gallery.
- Modernism and Post-Modernism in architecture and the fine arts.
- Tate Modern: a contemporary art museum for the 21st century.

Teaching and learning methods

The module consists of 12 x four-hour classes held over three weeks.

Activity type	Category	Student learning and teaching hours*
Lecture	Scheduled	22
Seminar	Scheduled	22
Tutorial	Scheduled	4
Project Supervisor	Scheduled	0
Demonstration	Scheduled	0
Practical classes and workshops	Scheduled	0
Supervised time in studio/workshop	Scheduled	0
Fieldwork	Scheduled	0
External visits	Scheduled	0
Work-based learning	Scheduled	0
Total scheduled		48
Placement	Placement	0
Independent study	Independent	152
Total student learning and teaching hours		200

*the hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

Assessment rationale

The assessment is designed to give students the opportunity to develop skills in the reading of artworks and visual material, to develop contextual arguments, and to relate primary and secondary resources. The essay aims to enable them to produce a researched and academically developed piece of work and to enable them to develop their analytical and reflective skills.

Assessment criteria

The assignments are assessed on the ability of the student to discuss a range of material, to reflect upon their responses to individual works of art, to contextualise the examination of visual material to cultural and historical contexts, to develop a coherent argument.

Assessment methods and weightings

Assessment name	**Weighting %**	**Qualifying mark %**	**Qualifying set**	**Assessment type (e.g. essay, presentation, open exam or closed exam)**
Essay	*60*	*30*	-.	*Essay*
Presentation	*40*	*30*	-	*Group presentation* .

Required Reading
(Chapters will be selected from the following texts)

Terry Barrett: *Interpreting Art: Reflecting, Wondering and Responding,* McGraw Hill/Mayfield, 2002

Nancy G. Heller: *Why A Painting Is Like A Pizza – A Guide To Understanding And Enjoying Modern Art*, Princeton & London: Princeton University Press, 2002

Walker & Chaplin: *Visual Culture: An Introduction*, Manchester University Press, 1997
Shearer West: *Portraiture*, Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2004

Further Reading

Anne D'Alleva: *How to Write Art History*, London: Laurence King, 2010
E.H. Gombrich:*The Story Of Art*, London: Phaidon, 1995
Susie Hodge: *How to Look at Art,* Tate Publishing, 2015