San José State University
School of Art and Design
Art History 100W, Section 1, Fall, 2010

Instructor: Dr. Christy Junkerman
Office Location: Art 117
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Email: acjunkerman@sbc global.net or junkermn@email.sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TTh 12:00-1:00 and W 2-3 or by appointment. If you do not find me in my office, I will be in the Visual Resources Library across the hall Room 110
Class Days/Time: TTH 1:30-2:45
Classroom: Art 141
Prerequisites: Prerequisites are the successful completion of English 1A, 1B, upper division status (60 units), completion of CORE GE courses and a passing grade on the Writing Skills Test (WST
GE/SJSU Studies Category: Area Z
Course Fees: The $11 course fee will be used for image and website development.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my course web page at http://arth.sjsu.edu. Click on courses and then on our course. The user name is arth. You will receive the password the first day of class. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU in case I need to send you an emergency email.

Course Description
Art History 100W is an advanced writing course designed specifically for art history majors to aid in the development of a self-confident, professional writing style which is essential for work in any field related to the arts. Every art historian must be able to write both correctly and effectively. The class will emphasize the sorts of writing tasks any art historian is likely to encounter. We will use nearby resources--museums, galleries and works of architecture--to hone skills of description, analysis and research. We will look for opportunities to work with the studio side of our department to develop assignments that involve real writing tasks, and we will write wall texts, visual analyses and reviews of exhibits, all the while improving skills in using...
language to communicate more effectively through appropriate language that is well aimed to its audience.

As a professional in the visual arts, you will find that writing is an essential form of self-presentation. The goal of this class is to increase your written effectiveness and thus enhance your self-presentation as a writer. Good professional writing requires you to understand thoroughly whatever it is you need to write about and then to present your ideas clearly and persuasively through appropriate language that is well aimed to its audience. These are the things we will work on, with particular attention to writing for an audience. Correct usage and grammar are important, but not ends in themselves. They are means to effective communication.

**Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

1: Students will be able to refine the competencies established in Written Communication IA and IB

2: Students will be able to express (explain, analyze, develop, and criticize) ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse.

3: Students will be able to organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences, including appropriate editorial standards for citing primary and secondary sources.

**GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes**

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

1. write with increased concision, clarity and correctness.

2. express their ideas more effectively and critically.

3. develop a greater awareness of the importance of writing for an audience, and locate, evaluate and make effective use of art and design resources.

**Course Content Learning Outcomes**

Through a variety of class activities, we will work on close-reading skills, pre-writing and brainstorming, writing rough drafts, editing and peer-editing, and on paragraph structure, organization of ideas and research methods. We will hone skills of description, argumentation and persuasion. We will read and analyze the work of excellent writers about art and consider issues of diversity. We will work on the development of a university-level vocabulary and sentence structure, and on problems of English usage and grammar as needed. The class will work cooperatively in active learning assignments whenever possible. Language mistakes will be treated as learning opportunities.

Content Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students should have a greater awareness of a developed skill in visual analysis and using words to analyze visual objects. The course will consider issues of diversity, in particular issues of the relationship between western art and the art of the rest of the world, and of the role of art in our society.
Required Texts/Readings


You are also required to own a college-level writer’s handbook that will be brought to class. If you already own a handbook, you can use that. We will do exercises in class to help you use the particular handbook you have. If you do not own one, please purchase the following text:


• A short, required course reader will be available at the Reserve Desk of the Library and on-line, accessed through the library web page ([sjlibrary.org](http://sjlibrary.org)). You will need to have a hard copy of this, either down-loaded or xeroxed. You will need a library card with barcode and your pin to access this library website. We will also be reading reviews and articles from the newspaper and from current art periodical. These pieces will be posted on our course website which is located at [http://arth.sjsu.edu](http://arth.sjsu.edu). Click on courses and then on our course. The user name is arth and you will receive the password the first day of class.

**Course Reader: Contents (new articles may be added as necessary)**


You should, of course, have easy access to a dictionary and should use it frequently.

**Other materials:** You will need to keep together everything you write for the course. Papers and exercises will be handed in to me either singly or in groups, and papers may be handed in more than once, with drafts of every stage of the writing process included. I suggest that you use a loose-leaf binder and also buy a small and lightweight folder or portfolio for handing in your papers.

We will meet with the art reference librarian, Rebecca Feind, during the semester, but remember you can always contact her yourself. Her email is [Rebecca.Feind@sjsu.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Feind@sjsu.edu)
Schedule

We will proceed according to the following general schedule, but changes may be made as need and opportunity arise. For example, if something interesting to write about goes up in one of the galleries, we will try to take advantage of it. I will hand out more specific schedules for a few weeks at a time with definite due dates. Each section will center on a different set of writing skills and tasks useful for art professionals, and each will result in a formal paper.

Weeks 1-3: Description--Descriptive Paper (Diagnostic exercise--refining the skills of 1A and 1B, brainstorming) [Learning Outcomes 1 and 2]
Oral Presentations—Introductions (Public speaking skills)

Weeks 4-6: Visual Analysis and Comparison
(analytical skills in writing about art, thesis statements, editing)
[Learning Outcomes 1 and 2]

Weeks 7-9: Contemporary Issues in the Arts: Writing Arguments
[Learning Outcomes 1 and 2]

Weeks 10-14 Research Paper (Library Skills, Citations, Plagiarism, Revision)
[Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3]

Week 15: Resume Writing
[Learning Outcomes 1 and 2]

Final Project— (Summative Exercise)

Classroom Protocol

Students will be expected to be on time, to attend class prepared to participate in discussion, and to turn all assignments in on time. Let me know before an assignment is due if some unavoidable situation makes it impossible for you to hand an assignment in on time.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.
Assignments and Grading Policy

Written Work

Formal Projects: 5 formal writing projects (a total of 8,000 words) will be assigned. You will write descriptive and argument essays, analytical paragraphs, a research paper, and a visual analysis of a work of art. For a final project, you will be assigned a professional portfolio that will include a resume and other materials relevant to a professional in art and design. You can expect to be working on some aspect of a formal writing project every week. These will receive letter grades. All of these assignments are designed to address the Student Learning Objectives, but the research paper is the only assignment that requires outside sources and is thus the assignment that will most clearly address the need to locate sources and to evaluate and synthesize ideas gained from these sources.

The final exam for our class is Monday, December 13: 1215-1430

Grading

Your grade will be determined as follows:
70% will be based on your formal projects.
20% will be based on your writing exercise portfolio and in class exercises (evaluated by a system of points for completion, effort and writing skills).
10% will reflect your participation and effort in classroom discussion and group work.

Students must receive a C grade or better in order to fulfill the Area Z requirement.

Late Papers will be reduced by one grade (for example a B becomes a B-) unless you notify me if some unavoidable situation makes it impossible for you to hand an assignment in on time. You must contact me by email or in person on the day the paper is due.

In class work cannot usually be made up and points will be lost for days when you are absent. There will be plenty of opportunity to earn points so that if you are ill your grade should not suffer. If you are seriously ill, accommodation will be made as long as you stay in touch. There is no extra credit--that system is left behind in high school.

Revision Policy

Each formal project will be peer-edited in the class period before it is due to me so you can revise based on preliminary feedback. I will then read and grade your paper and hand it back. You will need to revise the paper based on my comments and hand it in again, with the original paper, a week after you receive it. I will spot read it quickly this time. If you have made substantial improvements you might receive a second higher grade. Perfunctory revisions will result in the same grade. No revision means that I will enter a second, lower grade in my grade book. Bottom line: Revisions are not optional.

Assessment Criteria

Written work will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:
1. Effective aim to audience with interesting content.
2. Clear and logical presentation of ideas with well-supported arguments.
3. Well-structured sentences and paragraphs.
4. Effective introduction and conclusion.
5. Standard English usage, grammar and spelling.
6. Clear recognition of and response to the aims and tasks of the assignments.
University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.