

Critical Writing in the Arts

Contemporary Arts 319W

Section: E100

Term: 2012 Spring

Instructor: Collin Browne

Discussion Topics: FPA 319W explores the techniques and principles of critical writing in the fine and performing arts. Writing projects will include program notes, reviews, articles, essays, proposals and artists statements. A critical hothouse is our goal, a studio workshop committed to developing the vocabulary, intellectual rigor, writing and reading skills and critical intelligence required to write sensitively and engagingly about the fine and performing arts.

Students will attend exhibitions and performances and respond with a series of thoughtful, well crafted, critical texts addressing the work in the context of contemporary art production. Emphasis will be on research as well as writing, and students will become familiar with significant critical texts and contemporary sources of fine and performing arts criticism. In-class writing exercises will supplement readings, discussions and weekly assignments. Students will have an opportunity to introduce their colleagues to relevant critical texts and to workshop their writing in class. Writers will visit to discuss their practice.

PLEASE NOTE: FPA 319W is an upper division W (Writing) course. Beginning with those admitted in fall 2006, all SFU students must enroll in one lower division and one upper division W course. While intended chiefly for Contemporary Arts students, FPA 319W is open to students from across the university.

Grading: Grades are based on projects completed and on each writer's initiative, engagement and willingness to pursue ideas. Individual development as a writer, contribution to class discussions and attendance will be taken into consideration. Students are expected to participate in field trips and class presentations.

Workshop participation: 10%
Research & presentation: 20%
Writing projects: 70%

Required Texts: tba

Recommended Texts: tba

Materials/Supplies: tba

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 60 credits, including at least 6 credits of FPA history/theory courses.

Notes: The development of writing skills lies at the heart of FPA 319W. For help with writing, see the University of Pennsylvania site:
http://writing.upenn.edu/critical/help_tips.html.

During the semester, each student will attend and write about several fine and performing arts events. Admission costs, where required, will be the responsibility of each student.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.