

DEPARTMENT OF ART ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

ARTH 436/3.0
Anthropological Theory and
Art History

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine a range of anthropological theories and will assess their potential methodological roles in art historical analysis.

Prerequisites: Level 4 and registration in an ARTH Major or Medial Plan and a GPA of 1.9 and 24.0 units in ARTH.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In recent years, the methods of social anthropology have been of growing interest to art historians. Anthropology's focus on the social practices of everyday life has been of particular appeal for art historians investigating social identity, material culture, and art's reception. In addition to providing the means for new methodological approaches, anthropology's focus on social ritual and everyday experience has prompted critiques of art history's traditional interest in artistic intentionality, aesthetic quality, and a hierarchy of media. In this course we will examine a range of anthropological approaches and assess their possibilities and limitations for art history through general discussion as well as through a more focused analysis of certain case studies. Anthropologists whose work will be studied include Émile Durkheim, Clifford Geertz, Mary Douglas, Victor Turner, and Pierre Bourdieu.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Anticipated distribution:

Quizzes.....15%
Group Presentation.....15%
Research Abstract.....10%
Research Presentation.....20%
Research Paper.....40%