

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANTH 3570A/SOCI 3570A
FALL 2022
STUDIES IN ART, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY**

Instructor: Abra Wenzel

Office Hours: Fridays 10:00-11:00AM Eastern Standard Time (Online via Zoom)

Email: abrawenzel@cunet.carleton.ca

Course Schedule: Thursdays 2:35-5:35

Method of Delivery: In-person

Course Description:

This course is about the relations between art, culture, and society. In this course we will explore 'art' as a concept. Art is relative to a particular society and culture. As will be explored early in the course, art, as we think of it, is culturally/socially grounded and differs from others. Stemming from this, there can be found formal and functional criteria that seem to apply to aesthetic expression in general, whether considered as "art" in the strict sense or not. Art cannot be defined in absolute terms, but an aesthetic dimension is at play in all social and cultural activities. What is art, and what is not art must therefore be determined in concrete contexts. We will explore many examples throughout the semester. This includes, paintings, textile arts, film, performance art, and more. Art and expression in North America will be a primary focus of this course. There will also be examples drawn from Ottawa to show that artistic expressions are present and entwined in our everyday experiences. The discussions and examples used in this course will demonstrate how art, in its many forms, is tied to our non-artistic realities (technologies, political, environment, colonialism, etc.).

Prerequisites: Second year standing or permission of the instructor

Reading (s)/Textbook (s): Weekly readings or videos to be assigned per week (see syllabus to come). Materials will be made available via Brightspace and Ares.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

There will be a variety of assignments for this course. See graph below.

Assignment	Percentage
Introductory Letter	15%
Free Writing Exercises (3)	15%
Short Object Reflection	20%
Final Essay	40%
Participation	10%