

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY
SOCI/ANTH 3570A/MUSI 3200A: STUDIES IN ART, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY
FALL TERM 2025**

METHOD OF DELIVERY: Weekly in-person lectures (3 hours per week)

Meeting times: Wednesdays 2:35 – 5:25 pm

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Michael Mopas, PhD

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Office hours: Mondays 1:30 – 2:30 pm or by appointment

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ABOUT THE COURSE

Description

What makes something a 'work of art'? And what exactly does it do for us? Is art simply a reflection of broader social structures that serves to reproduce already existing inequalities? Or can it be transformative, allowing for the possibility of social change? In this course, we will look at art 'sociologically' to consider how it is produced and received, and the impact it has on society and culture.

The course is divided into three parts: Part 1 provides an overview of the major debates and theoretical approaches to understanding the place of art in contemporary society. In Part 2, we will explore the impact that technology has had on both the production and reception of art. Finally, in part 3, we will look closely at hip-hop and use it as a case study for examining a variety of topics and social issues explored in this course.

Objectives

My main goal is to assist and guide students to becoming: (1) knowledgeable of the subject matter being taught; (2) communicators who can effectively convey their thoughts and ideas through both writing and speech; and (3) critical thinkers who can think independently by posing thoughtful questions, carefully examining certain assumptions and arguments, and considering alternative perspectives.

Approach to Teaching and Learning

I am a firm believer that good teachers 'facilitate' learning. Good teachers not only communicate information and knowledge to their students, but also enable and encourage students to become responsible for their own learning. As such, it is my job to get you excited about this course by facilitating interesting discussions, assigning

thought-provoking reading material, and giving challenging (but fair) assignments, so that you can become actively involved in your own learning experience.

Expectations of Students

To get the most out of this course, students must come to class prepared to learn. This means completing the required readings in advance, listening respectfully when others are talking, raising your hand when you want to speak, and speaking in turn.

Important announcements will normally be made at the beginning of class so please arrive on time. Also, because each class is three hours in length, you will miss a significant amount of material if you depart early or are absent, so please plan to attend regularly and for the full duration of the period. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend a seminar, it is YOUR responsibility for any course material (e.g., lecture notes, handouts, audio-visual presentations, etc.) you may have missed.

COURSE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Required Readings

The readings listed on the course schedule (see below) are all available and can be freely downloaded by registered students through the Carleton Library website.

Online Resources

A Brightspace website has been created for this course. Access to the website is password protected and restricted to students registered in this class. The website will be used by the instructor as an additional means of distributing course material and information (e.g., lecture notes, class announcements, class marks, links to course-related Internet sites, etc.). A discussion board has been created to provide students with an additional forum for discussing various course-related issues.

NOTE: Students will be expected to check the website on a weekly-basis.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Students are expected to have all readings completed and to come to class prepared to discuss the topics covered. Please keep on top of the readings (i.e., don't leave them to the last minute) and ask questions if any material is unclear.

PART I: THEORIZING ART

Week 1 (September 3): Introduction

Required readings: None.

Week 2 (September 10): What is art? And what does it do?

Required readings:

Isrow, Z. (2017) "Defining art and its future" in *Journal of Arts & Humanities*, 6(6): 84-94.

Schein, E. (2001) "The role of art and the artist" in *Reflections*, 2(4): 81-83.

Saltz, J. (2018) "How to be an artist: 33 rules to take you from clueless amateur to generational talent (or at least help you live life a little more creatively)" in *New York Magazine* (November 27 – online edition).

Week 3 (September 17): Artists and artworlds

Required readings:

Becker, H. (1982) "Art worlds and collective activity" in *Art Worlds*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp. 1-39.

Bourdieu, P. (1993) "But who created the 'creators'" in *Sociology in Question*. London: Sage, pp. 139-148.

Week 4 (September 24): The arts industry

Required readings:

Adorno, T. (1975) 'Culture Industry Reconsidered' in R. Guins and O. Zaragoza Cruz (eds.), *Popular Culture: A Reader*. London: Sage, pp.103-108.

Lambert, C. (2014) 'The way of the blockbuster' in *Harvard Magazine* found at: <https://harvardmagazine.com/2014/01/the-way-of-the-blockbuster>

Week 5 (October 1): Art, criticism, and social distinction

Required readings:

Bourdieu, P. (1984) 'Introduction' in *Distinction: A social critique of judgement of taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 1-7.

Bourdieu, P. (1984) 'Taste of Luxury, Taste of Necessity' in C. Korsmeyer (ed.), *The Taste Culture Reader: Experiencing Food and Drink*. New York: Berg, pp. 72-78.

Jones, D. (2019) "Why art criticism matters" in *MutualArt* (online edition – July 4).

PART II: ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Week 6 (October 8): The reproduction of art

Required readings:

Benjamin, W. (1936) 'The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction' in R. Guins and O. Zaragoza Cruz (eds.), *Popular Culture: A Reader*. London: Sage, pp. 96-102.

Week 7 (October 15): Art and the digital world

Required readings:

Notaro, A. (2022) "All that is sold melts in the Ethereum: The brave new (art) world of NFTs" in *Journal of Visual Art Practice*, 21(4): 359-382.

Van Veen, T. and B. Attias (2011) "Off the record: Turntablism and controllerism in the 21st century, part 1" in *Dancecult*, 3(1).

Van Veen, T. and B. Attias (2012) "Off the record: Turntablism and controllerism in the 21st century, part 2" in *Dancecult*, 4(1).

Week 8 (October 22): FALL BREAK

No classes.

Week 9 (October 29): Art(ificial) intelligence

Required readings:

Morreale, F. (2021) "Where does the buck stop? Ethical and political issues with AI in music creation" in *Transactions of the international society for music information retrieval*, 4(1): 105-113.

Caramiaux, B. and S. Alaoui (2022) "Explorers of unknown planets: Practices and politics of artificial intelligence in visual arts" in *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.*, 6 CSCW2, Article 477: pp. 1-24.

PART III: THE ART OF HIP-HOP

Week 10 (November 5): A brief history of hip-hop

Required readings:

Lamotte, M. (2014) "Rebels without a pause: Hip-hop and resistance in the city" in *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(2): 686-694.

"Hip-hop: A culture of vision and voice". The Kennedy Center. Website found at: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/hip-hop/hip-hop-a-culture-of-vision-and-voice/>

Week 11 (November 12): Fight the power: Hip-hop, empowerment, and social justice

Required readings:

Meepe, K. (2020) "Incorporating resistance practices in hip-hop: How Kendrick Lamar morphed from Black saviour to Black salesman" in *Social Alternatives*, 39(4): 33-39.

Week 12 (November 19): ‘Keepin’ it real’? Authenticity and the commodification of hip-hop

Required readings:

Fraley, T (2009) “I got a natural skill... : Hip-hop, authenticity, and Whiteness” in *Howard Journal of Communications*, 20: 37-54.

Harkness, G. (2012) “True school: Situations authenticity in Chicago’s hip-hop underground” in *Cultural Sociology*, 6(3): 283-298.

Week 13 (November 26): Hip-hop and cultural appropriation

Required readings:

Xie, P., H. Osmare and A. Ibrahim (2007) “Gazing the hood: Hip-hop as tourism attraction” in *Tourism Management*, 28: 452-460.

Lombard K.J. (2013) “From subways to product labels: The commercial incorporation of hip-hop graffiti” in *Visual Communication Quarterly*, 20 (April – June): 91-103.

Rodriguez, J. (2006) “Color-blind ideology and the cultural appropriation of hip-hop” in *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 35(6): 645-668.

Week 14 (December 3): Course wrap-up

Required readings: None.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Due dates and grade values for each assignment are as follows:

Assignments	Grade	Due Date
Written assignment 1	20%	October 1, 2025
Written assignment 2	20%	November 5, 2025
Art review	25%	November 19, 2025
Final take-home exam	35%	December 20, 2025

Written assignments – 40% of final grade (20% each)

Students will be expected to write two short written assignments (approx. 5-6 pages in length). More explicit instructions for the written assignments will be distributed in class.

Art review – 25% of final grade

Students will be required to write a short review (approx. 5-6 pages in length) of an ‘art project’ of their choice. More explicit instructions for the art review will be distributed in class.

Final take-home exam – 35% of final grade

The final take-home exam will test students' knowledge and understanding of key issues and concepts discussed throughout the entire course (i.e., the final exam is CUMULATIVE). More explicit instructions for the final take-home exam will be distributed in class.

COURSE POLICIES REGARDING ASSIGNMENTS

Citation style

The Chicago author-date citation style (17th edition) is to be used in the assignments and papers for this course. For more information, please see:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Submitting assignments and late penalties

All assignments and final take-home exams must be submitted electronically through Brightspace. Subject to the extension policy outlined below, there will be a 2% per day deduction from assignments submitted late. The late penalty applies equally to Saturday and Sunday. That is, a paper due on Tuesday that is handed in on Wednesday (1 day late) will be subject to a 2% deduction from the overall assignment grade (i.e., out of 100%). The same paper handed in on the following Monday (6 days late) will be subject to a 12% deduction.

Extension Policy

Students must request an extension PRIOR to the due date of an assignment. To receive an extension for an assignment, a student must provide written documentation of his or her inability to complete the assignment on time. Written documentation will generally take the form of a self-declaration form. For non-medical notes, the instructor will accept a note from the Registrar's Office (or similar University official), social worker, clergy member, lawyer, etc. Once the student has provided the instructor with adequate documentation of their inability to complete the assignment on time, the student and the instructor will negotiate a new due date for the assignment. Assignments submitted after the negotiated deadline will be subject to the late penalty outlined above.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Every student enrolled in this course is responsible for reading the following policies. It contains everything you need to know about the rules, requirements and regulations set out for this course.

A welcoming classroom

In this classroom, we collectively – students, visitors, and teacher - try to make sure that everyone is safe enough to be present, learn, and share their understanding of course material. This means that talk or behavior that disrespects or demeans others is not accepted. For example, rape jokes, racist comments, the expressions “that’s retarded” or

“that’s so gay” would be inappropriate. We all will refer to one another using correct names and pronouns. In some cases, we’d talk about anything that comes up on the spot, and in other cases it could be addressed outside of class. As needed in relation to the readings we do and discussion we have I will aim to provide regular and appropriate content and trigger warnings and welcome your input on what I can do to make this class workable for you.

Courtesy during lecture/seminar

Please do NOT come to lecture/seminar if you intend to sleep, surf the web, or chat with friends. This kind of behaviour annoys me and other students in the class. If you do intend on coming to lecture or tutorial, there are a couple of general rules that students must abide by:

1. Unless there is a class discussion going on, there is NO TALKING during the lecture/seminar.
2. LAPTOP COMPUTERS ARE FOR NOTE-TAKING ONLY – not e-mail, web surfing, social media, or playing online games.

Office Hours

My office hours are posted on my office door (787D Loeb Building). You are welcome to drop by during office hours or you may make an appointment if you feel you need extra time or cannot make the time I have allotted.

If my door is open, you are welcome to see me even if it is not during my office hours. If my door is shut, please do NOT knock unless it is an emergency. If my door is shut, I am either on the phone, working, or not in the office. Please do NOT drop by right before the class as I’m usually doing last-minute preparations.

Email

I will do my best to respond to your e-mails as quickly as possible. However, please allow at least 24 to 48 hours for a reply. Please be patient. I do my very best to respond in a timely fashion, but sometimes it is just not possible.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL COURSES AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Academic Accommodations:

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608** or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for October/November examinations is **October 1, 2025** and **November 15, 2025** for December examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Pregnancy:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Survivors of Sexual Violence:

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities:

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Assistance for Students:

Mental Health: As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Academic and Career Development Services: <https://carleton.ca/career/>

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

Artificial Intelligence:

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton's Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your Carleton account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>.

FALL TERM 2025 – IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Date	Activity
August 27, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall, and fall/winter courses.
August 31, 2025	Last day for receipt of applications from potential fall (November) graduates.
September 1, 2025	Statutory holiday. University closed.

Date	Activity
September 2, 2025	Academic orientation (undergraduate and graduate students).
	Orientation for new Teaching Assistants.
	All new students are expected to be on campus. Class and laboratory preparations, departmental introductions for students, and other academic preparation activities will be held.
September 3, 2025	Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.
September 9, 2025	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early fall courses.
September 16, 2025	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.
	Last day to withdraw from early fall courses with a full fee adjustment.
	Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to Graduate Studies will not be eligible to graduate in fall 2025 and must register for the fall 2025 term.
September 19-21, 2025	Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.
September 30, 2025	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
October 1, 2025	Last day for academic withdrawal from early fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Oct/Nov final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified

Date	Activity
	deadlines.
October 9, 2025	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early fall term undergraduate courses, before the official Oct/Nov final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
October 10, 2025	December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.
October 13, 2025	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 15, 2025	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term from applicants whose documents originate from outside Canada or the United States.
October 16, 2025	Last day of early fall classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early fall courses, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for early fall courses.
October 20, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late fall courses.
October 20-24, 2025	Fall break, no classes.

Date	Activity
October 25-26, November 1-2, 2025	Final examinations in early fall undergraduate courses will be held.
October 27, 2025	Late fall classes begin.
November 7, 2025	Last day to withdraw from late fall term courses with a full fee adjustment.
November 14-16, 2025	Early fall undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.
November 15, 2025	Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for December full fall and late fall examinations and fall/winter midterm examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term.
November 21, 2025	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
November 28, 2025	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late

Date	Activity
	fall term undergraduate courses, before the official final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
November 30, 2025	Last day for receipt of applications from potential winter (February) graduates.
December 5, 2025	Fall term ends.
	Last day of full fall and late fall classes.
	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full and late fall courses.
	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for winter term.
December 6-7, 2025	No classes or examinations take place.
December 8-20, 2025	Final examinations in full fall and late fall courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
December 20, 2025	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the

Date	Activity
	Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
December 24, 2025 at noon through January 2, 2026 inclusive	University closed.