Syllabus

The Art of Blasphemy - 5340

Last update 30-01-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: history of art

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Gal Ventura

Coordinator Email: gal.ventura@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday, 11-12

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Gal Ventura
Course/Module description:
Throughout history audiences have been scandalized, disturbed and offended by art that was socially, politically, and religiously challenging. Through the most infamous examples of controversial art throughout history, this seminar explores the tension between artistic freedom of expression and public offense, as perceived through controversial modern and contemporary art works, dealing with holiness, profanity, blasphemy, heresy and faith.

Course/Module aims:
The course is designed to provide stimulating discussions regarding blasphemy in art, while developing skills of critical observation of images and texts. A central aim is to stimulate small-group learning, exchange of ideas, and testing of interdisciplinary methods of work.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Students who follow the course will gain knowledge and understanding of some significant approaches to blasphemy and freedom of speech and enhanced awareness of the relevance of theory for historical analysis.
Course learning outcomes:
☑ Have gained an understanding of the cultural, social and historical context of blasphemous art.
☑ Have demonstrated awareness and understanding of relevant methodologies and theories in Art History and Visual Studies
☑ Formulate, execute, and complete an extended piece of writing under appropriate supervision.

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Classes will combine informal lectures, student group work and class discussion

Course/Module Content:
1. Introduction:
   Main concepts: heresy, atheism, desecration, defilement, sanctity, holiness, secularism
   Artistic concepts: quotation, tribute, imitation, appropriation, homage, parody, satire, ekphrasis
2. Gods versus Saints: Paganism and Mythology in contemporary art and visual culture
3. Christian Iconography and Blasphemy in modern and contemporary art
4. Jewish Iconography and Blasphemy in modern and contemporary art

Required Reading:


Christian Iconography and Blasphemy in modern and contemporary art


Jewish Iconography and Blasphemy in modern and contemporary art

מאירי-דן, נעמי, "בין חילול לחילון ומן האינדיווידואלי אל האוניברסלי: צלובים, צליבות ופייטות באמנות, בצלאל, המחלקה להיסטוריה ותיאוריה, 18, 2010.

Jewish Iconography and Blasphemy in modern and contemporary art

מאירי-דן, נעמי, "בין חילול לחילון ומן האינדיווידואלי אל האוניברסלי: צלובים, צליבות ופייטות באמנות, בצלאל, המחלקה להיסטוריה ותיאוריה, 18, 2010.
Additional Reading Material:


Elkins, James and David Morgan (eds.). Re-Enchantment (The Art Seminar). New
Steinberg, Leo. The Sexuality of Christ in Renaissance Art and in Modern Oblivion. Chicago, 1982.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 10 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: