Nebraska Wesleyan University

ARH 3800 Contemporary Art

Catalog

2026-2027

Course Description

This seminar investigates the diversity of global visual art practices through thematic topics such as activism, nature, identity, gender, memory, spirituality, colonialism, consumerism, beauty, participation, globalization, and science. Students will examine how practices, beliefs, systems and narratives have come under critique and are challenged by visual artists as well as how alternatives to these practices, beliefs, systems and narratives proposed by visual artists can lead to transformation. Emphasis is placed on contemporary art practices, but students are encouraged to consider artwork within larger historical and cultural contexts. Course discussions introduce students to aesthetic and theoretical developments, examine significant critical debates within the art world and explore various historical, stylistics and methodological questions raised within the visual arts and art history.

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion â?? Global
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Innovation Thread

Course Hours

4 hours

Departments

1. Art