

AH3694F/AHU3393F – The Living Archive: Artist as Witness

Professor: Dr. Joy James
Class Day/Time: Wednesday 2:30 – 5:30pm
Location: VAC 249
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00pm and by appointment
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Course Description

This third-year seminar course is organized around five themes: the Anthropocene, Anxiety, Love, Sense/non-Sense, and Identity/Difference. In recent decades each of these 'areas of concern' has become a prominent subject of investigation for contemporary art, literature, critical theory and emerging aesthetic models. Embracing these cross-disciplinary affinities as our foundational framework, each thematic engagement will be focused through generative pairings of specific exhibitions with provocative literary works. In the context of a series of readings, presentations, field trips to galleries, and dynamic group discussion, we will look at how important and necessary reconfigurations of the above areas of study—and their impact on individual and collective life in these early decades of the 21st century—might be understood.

*Please note: The class will be visiting the Art Gallery of Ontario (tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 02) to view an exhibition. The bus will be leaving campus at 9:30am and returning to campus in the early evening (exact date and time and further details confirmed during first meeting of the class). Students will be required to clear their schedules so that they are able to participate in this field trip.

Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of this course requires students to:

- develop a practice of close critical reading of textual and visual materials
- communicate orally and in writing the key critical, conceptual, and theoretical frameworks employed in the production and analysis of contemporary art
- conduct research using and evaluating source materials in order to articulate an argument, support the argument, and to address counter-arguments
- apply theories and methods used in the classroom to 'real world' context of contemporary areas of concern across disciplinary and institutional boundaries