

Syllabus

Title: Studies in Social Sciences and Communication II. <i>Creative Communication</i>				
Tutors of the course, contact: Patrick Tayler patricktaylor@g.mome.hu / patricktaylor@gmail.com				
Code: M-DM-203-2	Curriculum place: DMMA 1.	Recommended semester: II.	Credit: 5	Number of Lessons: 24 Student working hours: 51
Related Codes:	Type: seminar	Can I add as custom? -	In case of free choice, special prerequisites:	
Course relations (prerequisites, parallels): Registration only with M-DM-203-1 jointly.				
<p>The aim of the course:</p> <p>The course looks into the various strategies of communication and writing to find new ways of subverting conventions in criticism, art writing, curatorial texts and various other forms of written and spoken performance. By seeking out well-grounded practices from literature, speeches, copywriting and, for example, social media, we aim to discover a wide range of possibilities. During the lessons, we will search for creative responses to the situation when somebody has to verbalise their thoughts and intuitions during an interview or during a collective project. Apart from developing practical writing skills, we examine the creative possibilities of the reader and the speaker. We will rely on close-reading as a tool of self-reflection and in-depth analysis. By alluding to a wide range of case studies, we will collectively expand our writerly perspectives in the domain of contemporary art.</p> <p>During the course I will be glad to help you in overcoming any possible language barriers. Whatever the level of your English knowledge might be at the moment, I am sure we will find a way to work together!</p>				
<p>Intended learning outcomes (professional and transitive competencies):</p> <p>Knowledge: Gaining new theoretical, practical and artistic perspectives on different forms of art writing. Investigating an expanded notion of creative writing in a group environment. Utilising the tools and techniques of distinct areas of writing (literature, song lyrics, ad slogans, copywriting, etc.) to enhance personal, art-related projects.</p> <p>Skills: Art writing, creative writing, critical thinking and collaborative skills in text-based cultural interactions. Critical editing skills (creative criticality, critical creativity).</p> <p>Attitudes/attributes: A self-reflective approach to crafting sentences and paragraphs. An open attitude to creating new meanings through text. Close reading as a way to assure the precise expression of ideas. Charting new, personally relevant territories of thought and emotion.</p> <p>Autonomy and Responsibility: Understanding writing as a collective platform for collaboration and engagement. Developing skills in writing to let your personal voice contribute to local and global discourses. Helping you in gaining a more grounded, personal connection to the English language in art-related topics. Establishing our common notions together.</p>				
<p>Course content (topics and themes):</p> <p>The course will adapt to the interests of the students and the direction that the discussion will take us into. Here is a selection of topics and themes we will possibly touch upon in the discursive space of the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How?</i> – the practical aspects of writing: drafting, restructuring, deleting, spellchecking and finalising • <i>Close-reading</i> – how to construct a well-grounded sentence and paragraph? (case study: Lori Waxman: <i>60 wrd / min art critic</i>) 				

- *Hashtags, comments and posts* – various attitudes in the online sphere (hater, troll, fan, etc.), *the meme* (case study: @the_art_gorgeous; @artreviewpower100)
- *Social media as a platform for exchanging ideas* (case study: @jerrysaltz)
- *Subtext* – how do different layers of meaning creep into the equation?
- *Q&A* – how to formulate and answer questions during an interview
- *Charting fictional spaces* – is it possible to “read” computer games (as fiction)?
- *International Art English* – overcomplicating and simplifying sentences, English as a global language, transparency (Flesch-Kincaid reading ease score)
- *Stylish academic writing* – what are the bad habits in academic writing? (Helen Sword, Steven Pinker, James McEnerney)
- *From Rock Criticism to Press Releases* – the various audiences of writing
- *To explain! To question! To sell! To subvert!* – the functions and aims of art writing
- *Boring vs. exciting text* – investigating possible explanations based on examples of literature, *Subjective vs. objective text* – investigating the viewpoints, angles and the general perspective of the text, *Linear vs. non-linear text* – writing as a temporal or as a spatial zone of thinking
- *‘Criticofiction’* – facts, post-truth and subjective hallucinations in art writing
- *Alternatives* – extending language with lexical elements from various zones of pop culture

Specificity of the learning process:

Teaching method: In general, we will start each lesson with a presentation on a given topic. A moderated group discussion will follow. In the second half, we will reflect on the finished assignments, examining possible issues and perspectives.

Schedule: Wednesdays, 16⁴⁰ – 18⁰⁰, classroom

Possible tasks and assignments:

A selection of selectable tasks (ca. 1000 characters):

- writing an advertisement – implicit and explicit ideas for selling an idea or art object
- explaining an artwork, project or exhibition for different target audiences and age groups
- collecting art talk clichés – writing a generic artwork description that could fit any piece
- handcrafting memes – using language and imagery in the context of a joke to shed light on issues
- group tasks, etc.

Compulsory task (max. 5000 characters):

- connecting the toolkit of fiction and criticism in a subversive text

Learning environment: classroom (however, in the case of a pandemic situation hybrid or online solutions might apply)

Assessment:

Assignments: Students will be asked to write four short (ca. 1000 character) assignments that will be connected to the topics discussed during the seminar. At the end of the course the students will be asked to create a more complex textual piece (max. 5000 characters), that will summarise the scope of the questions and issues touched upon during the seminar.

Assessment method: paper (max. 5000 characters)

Assessment criteria: Evaluation is to be based on the active participation of the student, the 4 short home work assignments and the final seminar paper.

Calculation of grade:

- classroom work (attendance, contribution): 30 %

- 4 short home work assignments: 4×5 % → 20 %

- seminar paper: 50 %

Some books and other sources of information you might find useful and interesting:

- Gilda WILLIAMS: *How to Write About Contemporary Art*, Thames & Hudson, London, 2014
- David LODGE: *The Art of Fiction*, Penguin Books, London, 1992
- Helen SWORD: *Stylish Academic Writing*, Harvard University Press, 2012
- Helen SWORD: *The Writer’s Diet*, University of Chicago Press, 2015
- Steven PINKER: *The Sense of Style*, Penguin Books, 2015
- Haruki MURAKAMI *What I talk about when I talk about running*, Vintage Books, London, 2008

- Stephen KING: *On Writing, A Memoir of the Craft*, Hodder Paperbacks, 2012

A selection of further readings:

- https://www.canopycanopycanopy.com/contents/international_art_english
- <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/45/60103/english-and-all-that/>
- <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/45/60100/international-disco-latin/>
- <https://hyperallergic.com/60675/how-not-to-write-like-an-art-critic/>
- <https://hyperallergic.com/66348/when-artspeak-masks-oppression/>
- https://monoskop.org/images/1/1e/Elkins_James_What_Happened_to_Art_Criticism_2003.pdf
- <http://www.cpanda.org/data/a00052/Visual%20Art%20Critic%20Report.pdf>
- <http://oritgat.com/Art-Criticism-in-the-Age-of-Yelp>
- <https://www.frieze.com/article/altercritics>
- <https://www.frieze.com/article/11-statements-around-art-writing>
- <https://www.frieze.com/article/who-do-you-think-youre-talking>
- <https://www.frieze.com/article/please-release-me>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog/2009/apr/24/art-criticism>
- <https://archive.ica.art/bulletin/notes-art-criticism-practice>
- https://aklatangbayan.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/state_of_art_criticism.pdf
- <https://60wrdmin.org/home.html>
- <https://arielfeminisms.dk/ygrg>

Schedule and venue for personal consultation: I am available for personal consultations (in English, German and Hungarian). You can reach me via email to discuss a one-on-one appointments.