

Please note: We may have to revise the course plan according to the reassessment to be made country-wide, regarding higher education, at the beginning of April. The content to be delivered is certain but the method of course delivery, the number and dates of exams, and some other details are subject to change.

VA 420/520 Concepts & Debates in Contemporary Art Syllabus for Spring 2022-2023

Course schedule: Tuesdays 9:40-12:30

Room: SUSAM G010 (Speranza)

Instructor: Meltem Işık

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: misik@sabanciuniv.edu

Course Description:

In this course we will explore common themes or significant concepts that contemporary art brings into question, such as identity, gender, race, place, audience, time, ecology, science, money, power, etc. through a selection of publications, interviews, documentaries, exhibitions and other relevant materials. Our class will gather each week with the intention of focusing on one of these themes, in a critical environment suitable for discussion-based learning, that encourages your engagement and active participation.

Contemporary art can be interpreted through layers of information and insights from different perspectives, giving rise to new debates and insights regarding the value, meaning or purpose of art. You are expected to contribute to the discussions in class, and formulate your general research for your presentations around the concepts we focus on, utilizing these multiple perspectives:

Exhibitions you visit (your own interpretations based on **your individual experience with the work**),
Published work about the artists and their works, the views of various writers and art critics regarding the artist's contributions to the current discussions in contemporary art and their position within the field),
Artist's interviews or writings related to their own creation / process.

As a senior or graduate level student, **your own ongoing academic research and /or studio practice** will also be a very relevant and welcome contribution to the discussions in this course.

Evaluation

Grading will be based on:

Discussion comments/questions-30%

There will be a space for posting your thoughts and questions about the screenings, readings and/or concepts we discuss in class, which you can find under "Forum for Discussion" on SuCourse.

Each week you are expected to post your comments/questions about the current discussion topic, before the next class.

Presentations-40%

Each student will prepare a presentation for the class, which will be outlined in detail later on in the term.

Participation-30%

In order to earn 20% of your grade, participation in the class discussions is critical.

Students who miss more than 4 classes without a valid excuse, will receive NA as their final grade.