**Course Name: Special Topics in Art History  
Course Prefix: ARTH  
Course Number: 3055  
Submitted by: Liese Zahabi, liesezahabi@weber.edu**

Current Date: 10/20/2014 College: Arts & Humanities  
Department: Visual Arts  
From Term: Fall 2015

Substantive

new   
Current Course Subject: N/A  
Current Course Number:

Variable Course Number

### New/Revised Course Information:

Subject: ARTH  
Course Number: 3055

Check all that apply:*This is for courses already approved for gen ed. Use a*[*different form*](http://documents.weber.edu/catalog/forms.htm)*for proposing a new gen ed designation.*

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Course Title: Special Topics in Art History  
Abbreviated Course Title: Special Topics in Art History  
Course Type: LEC  
Credit Hours: 4  
**or**if variable hours: to

Contact Hours:Lecture: 4  
Lab: 0  
Other:

Repeat Information:Limit: 3  
Max Hrs: 12  
Grading Mode: standard

This course is/will be:

 a required course in a major program  
 a required course in a minor program  
 a required course in a 1- or 2- year program  
 elective

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:n/a

Typically taught Spring every two years [Full semester].

Course description (exactly as it will appear in the catalog, including prerequisites): This course will explore different topics and content related to art history and the contemporary practice of art; the content of the course will change as the main topic changes. Students will gain the benefit of a deep dive into a specific time period, discourse, or exploration of media.

Justification for the new course or for changes to an existing course. (Note: Justification should emphasize academic rationale for the change or new course. This is particularly important for courses requesting upper-division status.)The 'Special Topics' course will allow for the in depth, specialized study of variable themes both in the history of art and in the most current discourse on contemporary art. This type of focused study has not yet been available in the DOVAD area of art history. Even our upper division art history courses still maintain a survey character as they must cover rather broad time periods (i.e. Modernism 1860 to 1960, Islamic Art etc.)   
  
Special Topics in Art History will enable students to study, write and read on a much more academically challenging level and better prepare them for their ongoing professional pursuits. The example topic and syllabus proposed here, Dada and Surrealism, exemplifies the type of topic I anticipate developing in the future. The significance of Dada and Surrealism for the art of the 20th and 21st centuries goes far beyond Marcel Duchamp and Salvador Dali. This course will allow for an in depth study of these two crucial 'moments' in art history, including the contributions of women, photography, film and Latin American artists (see attached syllabus).  
  
Other possible topics for this class include:  
  
Special Topics in Art History: Art and Society in Western/Central/Northern Europe and Russia between 1890 - 1914—An in-depth study of especially Art Nouveau and its many manifestations. Though the focus will be on Western/Central/Northern Europe, an 'excursion' to Chicago and New York will be included. Currents other than Art Nouveau will also be considered, including Symbolism and the importance of the world expos for the new art of the fin-de-siècle.  
  
Special Topics in Art History: Graffiti, Street Art, Public Art, Eco-Art, Land Art, Destination Art, Earthworks—Over the past five some years, a good percentage of my students in the Contemporary Art class consistently express their interest in 'art of the public domain'. This course would allow for a more structured, detailed historical look at this art starting in the 1970s, and lead up to an examination of the most current global manifestations.

### INFORMATION PAGE  for substantive proposals only

1. Did this course receive unanimous approval within the Department?trueIf not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?N/A

2. If this is a new course proposal, could you achieve the desired results by revising an existing course within your department or by requiring an existing course in another department?No. All the other Art History courses are survey style explorations of large time periods. This course would allow for the deep dive into a specific area of content, and would be flexible enough to respond to student needs regarding current discourses and contemporary art as well.

3. How will the proposed course differ from similar offerings by other departments? Comment on any subject overlap between this course and topics generally taught by other departments, even if no similar courses are currently offered by the other departments. Explain any effects that this proposal will have on program requirements or enrollments in other department. Please forward letters (email communication is sufficient) from all departments that you have identified above stating their support or opposition to the proposed course.N/A

4. Is this course required for certification/accreditation of a program?no

If so, a statement to that effect should appear in the justification and supporting documents should accompany this form.

5. For course proposals, e-mail a syllabus to [Faculty Senate](mailto:kbrown4@weber.edu) which should be sufficiently detailed that the committees can determine that the course is at the appropriate level and matches the description. There should be an indication of the amount and type of outside activity required in the course (projects, research papers, homework, etc.).

Please mail a signed [approval page](https://portalapps.weber.edu/lCourseProposal/SignaturePage.PDF) to the Faculty Senate Office, MA 210J, MC 1033.