



Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

Course Syllabus
 Doctoral College
 Spring Semester 2018-2019

Course Information		
Code: DOC817	Type: Course	Title: Practical Criticism
Number of credits: 3		Number of contact hours per week: N/A
Pre-requisites: N/A		Co-requisites: N/A
Description: <p>This course intends to present special masterworks of different periods, trying to clear up and analyse the different parts that constitute the final result, its organization and the reason of their success. Art is therefore considered as a language, personally created by the artist, in strong relationship with the historical and cultural context in which he operates.</p> <p>What is more important is the definition of the appropriate tools for reading such documents in an objective way, without the interference of ideological or aesthetic beliefs.</p> <p>The content becomes somehow a <i>pretext</i>, while the meaning has to be found in the <i>text</i> itself.</p>		
Schedule Information		
CRN: 24840	Section:	
Days/time class meets: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday	Location of class meets:	
Name of Instructor: Attilio De Gasperis Telephone: 76-866835 Email: attiliodegasperis@usek.edu.lb Office Hours: By appointment:		
Learning Outcomes		
LO#1 To improve the tools for analysing the structure of communication in different fields LO#2 To foster a multidisciplinary approach to any kind of topic or problem LO#3 To recognize the influence of foreign art on Lebanese culture		
Course Outline		
Sessions	Topics	
1 The Sculptures of Michelangelo <i>The route of a tormented genius</i>	From the <i>Vatican Pietà</i> to the <i>Rondanini Pietà</i>	
2 Jacopo Tintoretto <i>Dynamism and drama in the painting of Renaissance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The <i>Scuola Grande di San Rocco</i> in Venice - The <i>Last Supper</i> 	
3 Francesco Borromini <i>Invention and metaphysics in Roman Baroque architecture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Church of <i>Saint Ivo at La Sapienza</i> - <i>Perspective Gallery</i> at Palazzo Spada 	
4 Gian Lorenzo Bernini <i>The "Unity of the Visual Arts"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The <i>Rape of Proserpina</i> and <i>Apollo and Daphne</i> at the Galleria Borghese - <i>St. Peter's Baldachin</i> - The <i>Ecstasy of Saint Teresa</i> - <i>Piazza and colonnade</i> in front of St. Peter's 	

<p>5 Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita (Midway upon the journey of our life) <i>Commentary of the first verse of Dante's Divina Commedia</i></p>	<p>Literal and allegorical interpretation. Structure of Dante's Cosmology Faith, Reason and Ideology</p>
<p>6 The Language of Poetry (1) <i>Reading of American and European poets of the 20th century</i></p>	<p>"The Medium is the Message" Tips and tricks What is the duty of Poetry?</p>
<p>7 The Language of Poetry (2) <i>Reading of American and European poets of the 20th century</i></p>	<p>"The Medium is the Message" Tips and tricks What is the duty of Poetry?</p>
<p>8 Che cosa sono le nuvole? (What clouds are?), by Pier Paolo Pasolini <i>A film version of Shakespeare's Othello</i></p>	<p>A Cinema of Poetry. Cinema as the fusion of arts: Theatre, Music, Painting, Literature.</p>
<p>9 La Traviata (La dame aux Camélias), by Giuseppe Verdi (1) <i>The courtesan redeemed by love</i></p>	<p>Literary and musical analysis of the Opera: Act 1 and 2. The woman: angel and devil. Against the hypocrisy of society.</p>
<p>10 La Traviata (La dame aux Camélias), by Giuseppe Verdi (2) <i>The courtesan redeemed by love</i></p>	<p>Literary and musical analysis of the Opera: Act 3. The triumph of lyrical <i>pathos</i>.</p>

Evaluation Criteria

Written and oral exam. The written exam includes long and short text answers, and multiple choice questions.

Required Texts	E.H. Gombrich, <i>The story of Art</i> , Phaidon Press, New York, 1951 (available <i>online</i>)
Supplemental References	
Required Materials	The materials will be indicated by the instructor