

ARTZ494: STUDIO ENQUIRY: Cultural Boundaries in the Sydney Biennale

Art Department, Montana State University Billings

Study Abroad course – May 12 – 24, 2020

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Course Description

This class will use the 22nd Sydney Biennale *NIRIN* curated by Brook Andrew as the foundation for exploring contemporary art and the relationship between indigenous culture, artist, and audience within the framework of a studio practice on a global stage. Our study will place artworks within a social, historical, and political framework and students will learn to analyze art criticism and theories of contemporary art. Additionally, we will be taking a close look at the First Nations art community in Australia and the connection to the First Nations artists in the United States.

Teaching Method

Instruction will take place during pre-trip meetings, on-site at the Sydney Biennale, at various cultural sites in Sydney and through group discussions. Participation in the discussion is expected and encouraged. Readings will be posted to the course D2L site or Box Folder and available before and during the on-site portion of the course.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Exhibit familiarity with major art works, makers, and movements in contemporary art and place them within the social, cultural, and political contexts of their making;
- Conduct original research on selected artworks and present information in a clear and concise manner to peers;
- Be conversant in the current artistic and cultural debates within the field of contemporary art and international art biennials.
- Make visual art that responds to a cultural subject matter and exhibit in a group exhibition

Course Text/Readings

All readings will be available as PDF's on D2L or distributed to our class list via email.

Topics Covered include:

1. Frameworks and Enquiries of the International Exhibition
2. Contemporary Issues in Studio Practice
3. Encounters and Audiences from the viewpoint of the artist, audience, and curator.

Course Projects

- On-site presentations of artist/artwork to peers and faculty
- Participation in group discussion during travel
- Journal/sketchbook that incorporates reading notes, sketches, exhibition inquiries, artist/cultural information, and responses to prompts and questions

- Final response paper on the Sydney and cultural experience. Should be typed and submitted with Journal/Sketchbook for final grade.
- Final studio project that responds to exhibition or participating artist and investigates the theme of the Biennale. These projects will be exhibited as a group exhibition in fall 2020.

Grading

As this class involves a great deal of class discussion and on-site activities a significant portion of your grade will be based on class participation. This include preparedness and participation in class discussions and activities. The following is the breakdown of grades:

Class Participation and Preparedness	20%
Onsite Presentation of Researched Topics	15%
Journal/Sketchbook	20%
Final Response Paper	20%
Final Studio Project	25%

Course Outline

- A. History of Sydney Biennale and it's cultural significance
- B. 2020 Iteration of Sydney Biennale (info avail Nov 2019)
 - a. Statement from Juror
 - b. Exhibition Statement
 - c. Exhibiting Artists
 - d. Exhibition Sites
 - e. Projects and Performances
- C. First Nation Art and Culture

Course Schedule

Pre-Trip Meetings (final dates TBA)

February 2020	Australian History Culture
March 2020	First Nations themes
April 2020	Contemporary Artists

All class meetings pre-trip will include logistics and assistance with preparing for travel.