

COURSE SYLLABUS						
Course Title	Course Code	Semester	Course Hour/Week		Credit	ECTS
Anthropology of Art	ARTS 208	4	Theory 3	Practice 0	3	5
Course Type	Compulsory Courses	Department Elective	Faculty Elective	University Elective	CoHE (YÖK) Compulsory	Other
	X					
Level of Course	Associate Degree (Short Cycle)		Undergraduate (First Cycle)		Graduate / Doctoral (Second / Third Cycle)	
			X			
Language of Instruction		English				

Course Instructor(s)	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elham Etemadi		E-mail : elham.etemadi@arucad.edu.tr Office : TI-OFF16	
Course Objectives	The objective of this course is to foster a deep and critical understanding of the intersection between anthropology and artistic expression. Students will develop the ability to analyze and interpret artistic practices within their cultural and historical frameworks while enhancing their critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and cross-cultural communication skills. By engaging with diverse artistic traditions and theoretical perspectives, students will cultivate a more nuanced appreciation of how art shapes and is shaped by social structures, identity, and power dynamics. This course aims to prepare students to critically engage with and contribute to contemporary artistic discourse in both academic and professional settings.			
Course Learning Outcomes	Students will able to:	Teaching Methods	Evaluation Methods	
	Define the key concepts, aims, and methods of the anthropology of art within cultural anthropology.	Direct instruction; textbook-based theoretical lectures; guided class discussion	Midterm exam; Final exam	

	Explain the relationships among art, culture, communication, identity, and social structure in different societies.	Instructor-led lectures; guided discussion of readings; concept-mapping in class	Midterm exam; Final exam
	Interpret artworks and artistic practices within their cultural, historical, and social contexts.	Comparative visual analysis; case-study discussions; guided review of examples	Midterm exam; Final exam
	Analyze anthropological case studies by relating art to power, representation, and cultural meaning.	Guided case analysis; structured interpretation exercises; supervised preparation for presentation	Presentations; Midterm exam; Final exam
	Evaluate major theoretical approaches in the anthropology of art through critical discussion and comparison.	Thematic seminars; guided debate; film-based discussion (where relevant)	Presentations; Midterm exam; Final exam
	Develop and present a coherent argument on an art-related topic by using anthropological concepts and examples.	Instructor-guided critique sessions; peer feedback on presentation drafts; argument-building workshops	Presentations; Midterm exam; Final exam
Course Content	<p>This course offers students a comprehensive exploration of the dynamic relationship between anthropology and artistic expression. Through theoretical study, hands-on activities, and critical analysis of diverse art forms, students will examine the cultural, social, and historical contexts that shape artistic practices across different societies. By exploring how art reflects and influences identity, power structures, and social dynamics, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between art and society. Engaging discussions and creative projects will help develop critical thinking skills, cross-cultural awareness, and a greater appreciation for the richness of human artistic expression. Ultimately, this course equips students with the knowledge and analytical tools needed to interpret, critique, and actively contribute to the ever-evolving landscape of art in both global and local contexts.</p>		

Week	Topic	Implementation (theory/practice)	Required Reading, Preliminary preparation
1	Introduction, Syllabus, do's and don'ts	T	- Instructor's Note
2	The Anthropological Approach What is Art	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014) - Haviland, W. (2017) - Guest, K. J. (2020)
3	The Anthropological Approach What is Culture	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014) - Haviland, W. (2017) - Guest, K. J. (2020)
4	Art, Culture, Communication	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014) - Haviland, W. (2017) - Guest, K. J. (2020)
5	Social Contexts and Social Function (Examples of Art)	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014)
6	Unmasking the Structures of Power (1)	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014)
7	Unmasking the Structures of Power (2)	T	- Instructor's Note - Guest, K. (2020) Haviland, W. (2017)
8	Revisiting our Insights Mid-Term Exam	T	- Instructor's Note
9	<i>Human</i> (2015), director; Yann Arthus-Bertrand	T	- Instructor's Note
10	Students' Presentations	T	-
11	Students' Presentations	T	-
12	Art and Media	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014)
13	Notable Theorists of Anthropology of Art; Cultural Relativism, Structuralism, Art and Agency, Making Special (Part 1)	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014) - Haviland, W. (2017)
14	Notable Theorists of Anthropology of Art; Cultural Relativism, Structuralism, Art and Agency, Making Special (Part 2)	T	- Instructor's Note - Belting, H. (2014) - Haviland, W. (2017)

15	Now let me know what do you think about Anthropology of Art.	T	- Instructor's Note
16	FINAL EXAM	-	-

Required Course Material(s) / Reading(s)/ Text Book(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belting H., Dunlap T., . (2014). <i>An Anthropology of Images</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. LOC classification: GN347 .B44613 2014 ISBN: 9780691160962 • Haviland W. A., Prins H. E. L., McBride B. & Walrath D. (2017). <i>Cultural anthropology</i>. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. LOC classification: GN316 .H38 2017 ISBN:9781305633797 • Guest K. J., . (2020). <i>Essentials of cultural anthropology</i>. New York: W. W. Norton and Company. LOC classification: GN316 .G845 2020 ISBN: 9780393417234
Recommended Course Material(s) / Reading(s) /Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morphy, H and M. Perkins (2006). <i>The Anthropology of Art: A Reader</i>. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

ASSESSMENT		
Learning Activities	NUMBER	WEIGHT in %
Mid-Term	1	30
Quiz	-	-
Assignment	-	-
Project	-	-
Field Study	-	-
Presentation / Seminar	1	30
Studio Practice	-	-
Other (class participation)	-	-
Contribution of Final Examination/Final Project/ Dissertation to the Final Grade	1	40
TOTAL		100

CONTRIBUTION OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES						
No	PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES	Level of Contribution (1- lowest/ 5-highest)				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Explains the fundamental knowledge of art history, art theory, and the historical development of art, and interprets artworks within cultural, social, and theoretical contexts.					
2	Applies the basic elements and principles of art and design, considering color theory and color relationships in two- and three-dimensional visual compositions.					
3	Represents objects, figures, and space through drawing in accordance with the principles of proportion, perspective, and light–shadow.					
4	Uses different materials, techniques and studio methods in accordance with occupational health and safety rules and sustainable production approaches, and produces original artistic works.					
5	Analyzes works of art through a critical perspective within aesthetic, cultural, social and ethical contexts and evaluates them in relation to contemporary art discussions.					
6	Conducts research in artistic production processes and integrates conceptual thinking into creative practice.					
7	Develops both independent and collaborative art projects and gains the ability to plan, implement, and evaluate artistic production processes.					
8	Communicates artistic works effectively using written, oral, and visual presentation methods.					
9	Uses digital tools, contemporary technologies, and new media opportunities in artistic production processes.					
10	Develops interdisciplinary approaches in art production and establishes relationships with different artistic fields.					
11	Prepares a portfolio as part of professional development, gains awareness of the professional functioning of the art world and copyright issues, and follows current developments in the field.					
12	Designs, produces, and presents an independent graduation project, demonstrating artistic practice in a comprehensive manner.					

ECTS / STUDENT WORKLOAD				
ACTIVITIES	NUMBER	UNIT	HOUR	TOTAL (WORKLOAD)
Course Teaching Hour (X weeks * total course hours)	15		3	45
Preliminary Preparation and self- study	15		4.5	67.5
Mid-Term	1		2	2
Quiz				
Assignment				
Project				
Field Study				
Presentation / Seminar	1		1.5	1.5
Studio Practice				
Final Examination/ Final Project/ Dissertation	1		3	3
Other				
TOTAL WORKLOAD				119
TOTAL WORKLOAD / 25				4.7
ECTS				5

ETHICAL RULES WITH REGARD TO THE COURSE

Plagiarism Disclaimer

Detected and undetected plagiarism is a serious offence at any time and it could have devastating effects on your degree result and future professional lives.

Plagiarism is easy to avoid if you make sure to identify and acknowledge your sources thoroughly and do not copy directly from visual examples, designs, or notes that have in turn been taken word for word from your sources.

	SDG 1: No Poverty	
	SDG 2: Zero Hunger	
	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	
	SDG 4: Quality Education	X
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	
	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	
	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	
	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	X
	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	
	SDG 13: Climate Action	
	SDG 14: Life Below Water	
	SDG 15: Life on Land	
	SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	X

	SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals	
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Final Grades will be determined according to the Course Learning Activities and Final Examination Assessment Details, as indicated below and comply with the Education and Examination Regulation set forth by the University.

Mandatory attendance rate

* According to the updated Senate decision as of the 2023-2024 academic year, mandatory attendance for all of our courses is 70%, regardless of medical reports. Reports will only be valid if exams cannot be attended. Students who cannot take the exam due to health reasons must submit a report to the faculty secretary within three working days following the exam.

PREPARED BY	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elham Etemadi
UPDATED	26.02.2026
APPROVED	Approved by the Departmental Board on 28.04.2026