

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Course Number: HNR-2XX 208 Class/Lect. Hours: 3 Lab Hours:        Credits: 3 Dept.: AHSS

Course Title: **Seeing Beyond Seeing: Reframing Art and Photography  
in Contemporary Culture** Semester: Spring Year: 2015

**Course Description, Prerequisite, Corequisite:**

**Course Description**

Meaningful art, in any medium, can be a life-altering experience, but developing an open mind as to what constitutes art requires practice. This course will challenge the preconceived ideas of art that we form from childhood to adulthood by pushing students to expand their own views of art, and reexamining the critical question of what art is. Through numerous field trips to local and regional museums and galleries, students will explore and investigate how they see and experience art. We will probe the social, cultural, economic, and political meanings found in art and photography, and carefully consider the important role of the contemporary artist and photographer and how they help form our pervasive visual culture today. Students will be expected to engage in philosophical and theoretical discussions during weekly colloquia. Assignments will include short readings and written response papers, a midterm paper, and final research project with a public presentation component. No previous art experience is necessary. PREREQUISITES: none

<b>Course Objectives</b>	<b>Competencies</b>
1. Investigate works of art and photography using an interdisciplinary approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. Student demonstrates ability to identify various works of contemporary art and photography.</li><li>• 2. Student uses visual analytical skills in various and appropriate contexts, including social, historical, political, and cultural arenas.</li></ul>
2. Conduct independent scholarly research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. Student demonstrates a strong knowledge of the research process as it directly relates to works of art and photography.</li><li>• 2. Student demonstrates familiarity with appropriate methods and sources for researching works of artists and photographers, including the library, the Internet, as well as other appropriate sources.</li></ul>
3. Synthesize information from various sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. Student demonstrates ability to interpret and critique the works of seminal contemporary artists and photographers.</li><li>• 2. Student demonstrates ability to critically evaluate works of art and photography.</li><li>• 3. Student demonstrates ability to apply in writing and group discussions information acquired through research and museum visits and other methods as related to works of art and photography.</li></ul>
4. Development of critical thinking skills appropriate to an Honors Course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. Student uses clear logical patterns of thinking, argumentation, and questioning.</li><li>• 2. Student is able to discern different works of art and photography, and apply basic art theory.</li></ul>