

# ART4020 | Contemporary Studio Seminar

**PROFESSOR:** David Adey, MFA

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**OFFICE:** Keller 104 (*email for an appointment*)

**SCHEDULE:** Monday / Wednesday: 10:40 am–1:00 pm

**CALENDAR:** [4020 Schedule 1.11.23.pdf](#) [Download 4020 Schedule 1.11.23.pdf](#)

**ROOM:** Keller 107 (Photo Room)

**FINAL EXAM:** Wednesday 5/3: 10:30 am–1:00 pm

**TEXTBOOK:** [Art & Fear: Observations On the Perils \(and Rewards\) of Artmaking](#)  
[Links to an external site.](#)

[Meet Your Professor](#)

[Weekly Modules](#)

[University Policies](#)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Contemporary Studio Seminar is a discussion-oriented course focusing on contemporary art theory and professional practice with the goal of enabling students to build a foundation for lifelong practice in the arts. Field trips, visiting artists, studio visits, attending lectures, group discussions, readings, films, etc., are just a few of the activities that take place in this course.

## GOALS OF THIS COURSE:

Help students find their creative voice or path.

Help students to better understand contemporary art and the complexities of the art world.

Help students build a foundation for a sustained life in the arts.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to interpret, compare, and critique various contemporary art

forms.

2. Students will develop and articulate a personal philosophy toward contemporary art and art-making.
3. Students will be able to identify and discuss a variety of prominent contemporary artists, theories, and trends.
4. Students will exhibit a greater understanding of how contemporary art communicates and functions in society.

## COURSE STRUCTURE:

We will work toward achieving these outcomes through the following methods:

**Oral presentations:** Each student will give two oral presentations throughout the semester. Requirements will be assigned.

**Assigned reading/class discussion:** In addition to the required text, several reading assignments from various sources will be given throughout the semester. Each will include a written assignment. All written assignments must be typed and uploaded to Canvas to receive credit.

**Visiting artists/guest speakers:** We will have 2 to 4 visiting artists present their work to the class and be available for questions and discussion.

**Field trips:** Field trips to major art venues in San Diego and the Los Angeles area are an essential part of this course. Accompanying assignments will be given.

**Artist statements:** You will be required to write an artist statement outlining your personal philosophy toward art and art-making.

**Lectures/videos:** Lectures will be given on a variety of topics. We will also view several art-related videos.

## ATTENDANCE:

### PLNU ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual attendance in all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

### CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is required. You are allowed two unexcused absences. Each additional absence will result in a 10-point deduction from your final participation grade. If absent, you are responsible for finding out what information you missed from your peers. If you arrive more than 5 minutes after the start time or leave more than 5 minutes early from a required class session, you will be marked late. You will be marked absent if you miss 30 minutes or more of a required class session. Three late arrivals or early departures equal one absence.

Exceptions to the attendance policy will only be made in case of a family emergency, illness with a doctor's verification, or something unexpected or urgent that is out of your control. Family vacations, weddings, work schedules, and travel/flight schedules are not

valid excuses for missing a required class session or exam. Excessive absences may result in you being dropped from the course.

- - **1–2 unexcused absences:** *no effect*
  - **3–5 unexcused absences:** *– 10 percentage points from participation grade for each unexcused absence beyond 2*
  - **6+ unexcused absences:** *Withdrawal from the course or failure if after the last day to drop*
  - **5+ minutes late:** *Tardy*
  - **30+ minutes late:** *Absent*
  - **3 Tardy:** *Absent*

## GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be based on the total number of points accumulated throughout the semester. If you are unprepared on either of your presentation days, you will receive an automatic 20 pt. deduction. Homework assignments are never accepted late and must be turned in to Canvas before the deadline to receive credit.

### FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN:

25%: Presentation 1 (100 pts)

25%: Presentation 2 (100 pts)

25%: Participation (100 pts)

25%: Homework (points vary)

### GRADE SCALE:

A = 93 – 100% of possible points

A- = 90 – 92% of possible points

B+ = 87 – 89% of possible points

B = 83 – 86% of possible points

B- = 80 – 82% of possible points

C+ = 77 – 79% of possible points

C = 73 – 76% of possible points

C- = 70 – 72% of possible points

D+ = 67 – 69% of possible points

D = 63 – 66% of possible points

D- = 60 – 62% of possible points

F = 0 – 59% of possible points

## GENERAL POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:

- - Arrive on time and be prepared to participate in all class activities, discussions, etc.
  - Attend every class and be engaged.
  - Dress appropriately for class.
  - Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

- Coming to class unprepared is the same as an absence.
- Turning in work done by someone else is considered cheating/plagiarism, and University Policy will be enforced.

## PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

- - Students should remain focused and engaged during class.
  - Phones must be silenced and placed in a designated phone bin during class.
  - Headphones are not allowed during class.
  - The unauthorized use of electronic devices for non-course-related activity is prohibited.
  - Repeated violations of these policies may result in an absence.
  - If you have an emergency or unique circumstance, arrangements must be worked out in advance with the professor.

**1st Offense = Warning / 2nd Offense = 1 tardy / 3rd or more = absence for each offense**