### I. ASCRC General Education Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Group IX: American and European Perspectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept/Program</td>
<td>Department of Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course #</td>
<td>ART 389</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>American Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite</td>
<td>Art 150H or 151H or consent of the instructor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### II. Endorsement/Approvals

Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Rafael Chacon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone / Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrafael.chacon@umontana.ed">hrafael.chacon@umontana.ed</a> u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Dr. Rafael Chacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>Dr. Stephen Kalm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### III. Description and purpose of the course:

General Education courses must be introductory and foundational. They must emphasize breadth, context, and connectedness; and relate course content to students’ future lives: See Preamble: [http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm)

This course is designed as a broad survey of American art from the Civil War to the present. By studying the sweep of American history, particularly in the last century, we shall address fundamental questions about the nature of American art and culture.

### IV. Criteria:

Briefly explain how this course meets the criteria for the group. See: [http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm)

1. ART 389 is a course that introduces students to a variety of artists, artistic approaches, and fundamental questions about the nature of American art and culture.
2. Students learn to develop opinions about works from differing critical perspectives.
3. Students engage in dialogue based on those opinions, citing artists, artistic approaches, and art periods.
4. Students analyze a work of art in terms of its relationship to its historical or cultural period, especially regarding the foundational elements of American culture.
5. Students learn the vocabulary associated with art, art history, and the analysis of artwork.
6. Students visually and textually identify pivotal works by period, date, artist, title and medium.

### V. Student Learning Goals:

Briefly explain how this course will meet the applicable learning goals. See: [http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm)
The following represent the course objectives of the art history and criticism curriculum:

- **Art History**: to gain a comprehensive and global view of the development of history and culture; to understand that art is a manifestation of intellectual history; and to study the various methodologies used to gain that knowledge.

- **Visual Literacy and Language**: to develop knowledge of visual language and the terminology needed for the analysis and discussion of works of art.

- **Technical Skills**: to learn the range of materials and technical applications employed by artists over time.

- **Critical Thinking**: to gain knowledge of and competence in critically analyzing visual images, past and present, and express their relevance to society through informed discourse, both verbal and written.

VII. Syllabus:

The syllabus should clearly describe how the above criteria are satisfied. For assistance on syllabus preparation see: [http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html](http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html)

*Please note: As an instructor of a general education course, you will be expected to provide sample assessment items and corresponding responses to the Assessment Advisory Committee.*

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**VII. Syllabus:**

Syl-S08-A389H-01-HRC

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK BLACKBOARD REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.**

**Term:** Spring 2008

**Course Information:**

Department of Art

**ART 389H, Section 01, American Art**
3 credits, prereqs. Art 150H or 151H or consent of the instructor.

Professor Information:
H. Rafael Chacón, Ph.D.
Office Hours: Tuesday, 9-11 A.M. and Wednesday 2-4 P.M.,
(Room 202, x.2735, hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu. You may also
leave messages in the mailbox in the Art Department Office
(Room 305).

Class Meeting:
Fine Arts, Room 302, Tues. and Thurs., 2:10-3:30 P.M.

STUDENT-LEARNING GOALS IN ART HISTORY:
The following represent the course objectives of the art
history and criticism curriculum:

• Art History: to gain a comprehensive and global view of
the development of history and culture; to understand that
art is a manifestation of intellectual history; and to
study the various methodologies used to gain that
knowledge.

• Visual Literacy and Language: to develop knowledge of
visual language and the terminology needed for the
analysis and discussion of works of art.

• Technical Skills: to learn the range of materials and
technical applications employed by artists over time.

• Critical Thinking: to gain knowledge of and competence in
critically analyzing visual images, past and present, and
express their relevance to society through informed
discourse, both verbal and written.

Course Description:
This course is designed as a broad survey of American art
from the Civil War to the present. By studying the sweep of
American history, particularly in the last century, we shall
address fundamental questions about the nature of American
art and culture.

Course format:
I teach this course in a traditional slide lecture format,
but I encourage open, frank, and fair discussion in the
classroom. The syllabus is arranged thematically and on a
weekly basis. As discussions and debates often develop
lives of their own, unfinished work will sometimes spill
over into the next session. The success of the course rests
on the quality of these discussions.

Policies:
Good performance in this class rests on your participation,
analysis of the primary and secondary texts that illuminate
American art, and retention of images discussed in class and
your readings. You are expected to engage the ideas of the
course, stay abreast of the readings, and share your
thoughts and ideas with the class.
The required textbook for this course is: David Bjelajac, *American Art: A Cultural History*. Additional readings, mostly articles and portions of books, may be placed on reserve and may be checked out for copying on an hourly basis. I shall always let you know where we are on the syllabus, but stay abreast of the readings because you will be called upon in class and texts will show up in quizzes. Good class participation depends on your ability to prepare well in advance of the discussion.

**Attendance/Absence Policy:**
20% of your grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussions. I expect at least 85% attendance and occasional participation to earn a "C" and 95-100% participation with frequent and thoughtful contribution to class discussion for an "A". Participation may count for more of the final grade if it has been exceptionally good or less if exceedingly poor. Improvement over the course of the quarter will be registered in the final grade.

**Term Project and Paper:**
For your term project and paper, you shall work in teams on a hands-on/research project. You will write individual research papers. **RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008, AT THE START OF CLASS—NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF THE PROFESSOR.** Papers will be returned with comments and may be revised and resubmitted for the final grade before the end of the term. You will share the results of your research with the class in individual presentations at the end of the term.

Grading:
- Participation: 20%  200 points
- Quizzes: 30%  300 pts.
  (3 @ 100 pts. apiece
- Term Paper & present: 50%  500 pts.

**Access/Special Needs/Disabilities:**
Students with access concerns, special needs, learning disabilities, medical conditions, and/or physical impairments that may impede the successful completion of this course, please contact the office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) at x. 2243 (Lommasson Center 154) and speak with me as soon as possible.

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at: [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321).
Syllabus:
THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK BLACKBOARD
REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.

Week 1
Defining the State: Symbols of the Republic
Readings: Bjelajac, pp. 115-161.

Week 2
Romanticism and the Landscape
Bjelajac, 192-215.

Week 3
The Real American: Genre Painting

Week 4
The City Beautiful: Urbanism and Architecture

Week 5
Tuesday, February, 19, 2008, NO CLASS*
Thursday, February 21, 2008, QUIZ #1

Week 6
Realism vs. Impressionism
Bjelajac, 248-283, 288-293.

Week 7
The Armory Show and Modernism
Bjelajac, 293-314.

Week 8
The Depression and State Patronage
Bjelajac, 314-327.

Week 9
Architecture Between the World Wars
Bjelajac, 329-337.

Week 10
No Classes--Spring Break

Week 11
Tuesday, April 1, 2008, QUIZ #2
Thursday, April 3, 2008, No Class*
Week 12
Post-War Modernism: The New York School
Bjelajac, 337-352.
The 1950s-70s
Bjelajac, 353-379.

Week 13
Feminist Art and Post-Modernism
Bjelajac, 380-391.
TUESDAY, April 15, 2008, PAPERS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS—NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Week 14
Presentations begin

Week 15
Tuesday, April 29, QUIZ #3
Thursday, May 1, 2008, Presentations continue

Finals Week:
Thursday, May 8, 2008, 1:10-3:10 P.M.*
Presentations will continue if we do not finish during the prior 2 weeks.

* Please note that these open sessions may be used if we fall behind schedule.