after:hours Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

**Course Descriptor**

**Course Title:** Study Skills in Art History

**Type of Course:** Adult Education

**Credit:** Not credit bearing

**Weekly Session Titles and Descriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Session Title/Description |  |
| 1 | *Introducing Art History: Using SCIF to ask the right questions* |  |
| 2 | *Ekfrastic and Formalist Analysis* |  |
| 3 | *Using Dialectics as a Critical Tool* |  |
| 4 | *Using the Museum as a Resource*  |  |
| 5 | *Using semiotics as a critical tool* |  |
| 6 | *The objective voice and academic conventions* |  |
| 7 | *Using Marxism and Feminism as critical tools* |  |
| 8 | *Literary parallels - how can poetry and prose help us understand art?* |  |
| 9 | *The non-objective voice and academic conventions* |  |
| 10 | *Presentations and what next?* |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Course OverviewOn this course we intend to introduce the skills used by professional art historians, whether based in academia, the media, museum sector or elsewhere, to understand and discuss works of art. To do this you will not need any previous experience in art history, but the purpose of the course is to help you reach a level of understanding in the subject that will allow you to apply for further study in art history with relevant experience and confidence.Alternatively, you might want to take the class as a stand-alone course, to help you to enhance your enjoyment of visits to museums and galleries.The course will cover various methods to “read” works of art, place them in historical, social, political and other contexts, and present ones research in a way that is considered legitimate within the wider art historical community, while also identifying some of the potential problems with this methodology, particularly its assumptions and biases. Primarily, however, the aim is to give you a confidence to use these methodologies to progress to higher level study in art history, and possibly other humanities subjects, if you want to.As this is intended as an active course, you will have tasks to complete, which will include taking part in classroom discussions on texts you will be given and undertaking short writing assignments to complete at home.Required Previous Experience (if any)No previous experience of philosophy is necessary, but you should have some background in psychotherapy.Required Reading Material or Special Equipment Needed (if any)There is no compulsory reading for this course.Learning OutcomesAt the end of this course you should be able to* apply a logical and systematic method of analysis to various art
* structure and write coherent short 'sample essays' and presentations according to academic conventions
* identify and apply basic academic theoretical models to the understanding of culture.

Possible Further StudyFurther courses on the after:hours programme might be useful to you.Additional informationThis course descriptor may be subject to change during the delivery of the course, depending on the specific direction and nature of the learner cohort, and is intended to be responsive to the group dynamics as they emerge during the delivery of the course. |