

Summary/Critique Assignments (Papers #2 and #3)
Art History 121: Renaissance through Modern (Sections A and B)
College of Visual Arts
Spring 2007

You will be required to write two summary and critique papers for this course, preparation for which will involve work with your small group. The first will be based on excerpts from Charles Baudelaire's 1859 essay "The Painter of Modern Life," the second on parts of André Breton's *First Manifesto of Surrealism* (1924). A notebook with these readings is available at the circulation desk of the CVA library. Make your own copies as soon as possible. Title your papers as follows:

- ♣ Baudelaire and the Painter of Modern Life. **Due March 28.**
- ♣ André Breton and Surrealism. **Due April 23.**

Each paper will be a summary and critical analysis. You will be required to do research on the authors to aid in your analysis. Your paper must cite, at a minimum, three academic sources, which should be substantial and authoritative (guidelines for choosing sources will be discussed in class). Meet with your small group at least twice to discuss the reading and share ideas on research. You're encouraged to work together on the research and share the resources you find, and your participation in this group work will be graded by your fellow students (rubric attached). Divide your work among group members as you see fit, but *you must write your own paper.*

Your paper should include answers to the following questions:

- ♣ Who is the author? What qualifications does he have to pronounce on matters of art?
- ♣ Where was the essay originally published? What was its intended audience?
- ♣ What are the author's main points?
- ♣ What kind of evidence does he use to back them up?
- ♣ What strategies does he use to persuade you of his point of view?

Form: each paper must be approximately 4-5 word-processed pages (1,000 to 1,250 words). It should be in standard academic language, that is, formal in tone, with no contractions or slang. Note:

- Use Microsoft Word and Times New Roman 11 or 12-point type. Double-space the text and use one-inch margins all around. Staple your paper; do not put it in a cover.
- Document your sources and any images you might use with the MLA citation system. See the *Bedford Handbook*, section 57, or go to Sue Short's excellent citation guide at <http://shortstreet.net/mlacites.htm>.
- Write several drafts of your paper to be sure you have expressed your ideas clearly and economically.

(over for further information)

Criteria for grading:

- Level of understanding of the author's arguments
- Depth of your own critical analysis
- Quality of research
- Participation in group work
- Presence of in-text citations and list of works cited
- Logic of organization
- Clarity of expression
- Grammar and mechanics
- Length (not too short or too long)

A = excellent (shows clear understanding of all the author's major points, includes well-synthesized research, and demonstrates critical insight into the significance of the essay; well-reasoned and carefully written)

B=above average (shows understanding of the author's arguments, includes some well-synthesized research, and demonstrates some independent critical thought; written in a manner that shows careful thought)

C=average (shows an adequate understanding of what the author is saying and includes research on the author; written in an adequate manner)

D=below average (may miss the author's meaning, lack research on the author, or be written carelessly, with poor reasoning)

F= not satisfactory (fails to meet the assignment)

Policy on late papers: Papers must be turned in on time, which means at the beginning of class on the date they are due. Late papers will be penalized one grade level per day (for example, A to B, B- to C-). Malfunction of a computer or printer is *not* an acceptable excuse for lateness. Note: late papers will *not* be accepted more than five business days after the due date.

Academic integrity: You are expected to abide by the provisions of the CVA Honor Code (see Student Handbook or syllabus for this course). Papers submitted in this and all other courses at CVA must be your work and not plagiarized from sources written by another. Plagiarism, or the unacknowledged use of another person's words, ideas, or images, will not be tolerated in this class. If you use passages written by someone else with small changes or if you paraphrase the ideas of another, you must give credit with appropriate documentation, as described above. Verbatim quotations from Internet sources are readily traceable and, in any case, will not fulfill these assignments. Penalties for breaches of academic integrity include an F on the assignment, an F in the course, or suspension from

the college.