

Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Spring 2018	ART-HIST 460	T 2-5	Reitz
Course Title			Degree/Distro Fulfillment
Identity/Politics			



This seminar examines the politics of identity in art and its institutions since the 1960s. We will consider the key and oftentimes controversial objects, practices, arguments, exhibitions, protests, and policies that have shaped how identity is variously conveyed, categorized, or contested in contemporary art. We will also look to recent academic and curatorial work focused on earlier periods, such as the medieval, to determine the valences of these concerns in the broader field.

Our study will be grounded in a careful investigation of the development of relevant concepts in popular discourse and political, legal, and critical theory, from identity politics and intersectionality to multiculturalism and post-identity. Above all, we will analyze the complex relationships between individuals and institutions, especially regarding issues of positionality, diversity, inclusion, privilege, complicity, cultural appropriation, political correctness, and censorship. To that end, we will interrogate our own current or anticipated institutional contexts and constraints in our work as artists, curators, critics, scholars, students, and/or teachers. The central aim of the course is to equip ourselves with a stronger historical and theoretical understanding of the field as it is defined by these practices and debates, so that we might more conscientiously and strategically position our work within or against it.

Image: Art Basel Miami Beach 2016, installation view of Sam Durant's *End White Supremacy* (2008). Photo by Andrew Katz.

Required Textbooks	Assessments
Readings will be provided as PDFs via Canvas.	Weekly response papers; seminar participation and co-leadership; final research project and presentation

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