UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
EXAMINATIONS: JUNE 2016

SUBJECT, COURSE and CODE: ART HISTORY 310 and ART HISTORY 320
AHIS310 - 20th Century Art, Visual Culture and Theory I
AHIS320 - 20th Century Art, Visual Culture and Theory II

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER

DURATION: 3 HOURS TOTAL MARKS: 100 (33.3 per question)

This paper consists of 2 pages

Examiners: Internal – Mrs. Amanda Bucknall
External – Prof. Deborah Whelan

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO WRITE THREE ESSAYS IN TOTAL, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION. ALL ESSAYS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

SECTION ONE: MODERNISM

1. In 1936 Fernand Léger wrote ‘[r]easilisms vary by reason of the fact that the artist finds himself always living in a different era, in a new environment, and amid a general trend of thought, dominating and influencing his mind’ (translated in Harrison and Wood 2003: 503). Analyse this statement by comparing the artworks of Paul Cézanne and Pablo Picasso.

2. Paul Klee once stated that [a]rt does not reproduce the visible; rather, it makes it more visible’ (Chipp 1968: 182). Discuss how conceptual imagery was explored in Modernist representation with specific reference to two artists of choice.

3. ‘By overthrowing the established relationships between what counted as ‘realities’, Surrealism has thus inevitably played its part in accelerating the general crisis in the consciousness and conscience of our time’ (Max Ernst 1979 translated in Harrison and Wood 2003: 491). How does this statement embrace psychoanalytic theory in the work of Salvador Dali?
SECTION TWO: POSTMODERNISM

4. ‘Hyperrealism is only beyond representation because it functions entirely within the realm of simulation’ (Harrison and Wood 2003: 1019 quoting Jean Baudrillard). Discuss how this statement applies to art in relation to postmodern theory.

5. Compare the notion of ‘Blackness’ and ‘Whiteness’ and gender difference recognised in South African male identity through the works of Nicholas Hloba and Steven Cohen.

6. Jean-Francois Lyotard claims ‘[a] work can become modern only if it is first postmodern’ (Lyotard 1986: 79). Discuss this apparent contradiction.

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