COURSE OVERVIEW AND LEARNING GOALS
This course explores political art that engages with the refugee and migrant crisis in today’s Europe. It discusses the theory and scholarship on the relation between the arts, politics, and advocacy for social change across different media: documentary photography, documentary film, fiction film, activist art, and music. How do these forms of artistic expression deal with the same historical events? What exactly does make them unique representations from an epistemological standpoint? Are they effective in achieving their aesthetic and political goals? These questions are at the core of the course, which aims to analyze the rhetorical strategies that artists employ in order to charge their work with a specific political function. At the same time, students will reflect on how these artists express their ethical concern for refugees and migrants, and present themselves as active political agents, as well as on the ways in which they may involve migrants as witnesses and makers. Students will also be introduced to the methods of research in the humanities and will be guided in the process leading to the completion of an independent research and the development of a written argument. Together with reading and writing skills, students will practice and develop their critical and analytical abilities throughout the semester.
RESOURCES
Scholarly articles, book chapters, links to websites, and relevant material for the course will be available on NYU Classes. All video recordings, such as document films or fiction films, will be available on NYU Stream.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:
First Paper 20%
Second Paper 20%
Final Research Paper 35%
Periodic Assignments 10%
Participation 15%

Papers: The two papers should develop an original argument in response to prompts given by the instructor. This argument should be supported by specific examples and references to both primary and secondary sources read and analyzed for the course. The first paper will be 2-4 pages. The second paper will be 4-6 pages. The first paper is due February 21, 2017, and the second one is due March 27, 2017. Both papers should be submitted via email to the instructor. Late work will not be accepted.

Final research paper: The final research paper will be 10-12 pages in length. Students will propose their own topic. They will conduct research, locate primary and secondary sources, and provide close readings and specific examples to develop their original argument. Students will turn in a 250-word paper proposal on April 24, 2017, and a 4-page draft on May 1, 2017. The final research paper is due May 11, 2017, by 5pm via email. Late work will not be accepted.

Periodic assignments: Periodic assignments may include: one-page response papers about primary sources assigned for each week; preparation of discussion questions; textual analysis of specific texts. Students should engage closely with the readings and formulate some questions and/or ideas about what you have read. The periodic assignments will be collected at the beginning of class.

Participation:
Students are expected to complete all required readings and assignments prior to class. They are expected to participate actively in class discussions and activities, express their ideas, raise relevant questions, and have debates with their classmates.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance at every class is mandatory. Except in case of documented illness/medical emergency (doctor’s note required) or religious holiday (to be notified to the instructor via email during the first week of the semester), every absence will impact your final grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Any plagiarized work will receive a 0% and will be reported to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Students can read the College of Arts and Sciences Statement on Academic Integrity here: http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity.
SEMINAR SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
January 23, 2017

**INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE.** Historical, political and cultural context of contemporary Europe’s refugee and migrant Crisis. Political art and migration. Borders.

Readings to be presented by the instructor and discussed in class:

To be viewed in class:

WEEK 2
January 30, 2017

**INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE.** Politics and Aesthetics. Media Representation of Europe’s Refugee and Migrant Crisis

Readings:

To be watched at home on NYU Stream or Vimeo:
WEEK 3
February 6, 2017

TOPIC 1: DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Readings:

Articles and photos about Reuters & NYTimes Pulitzer Prize in 2016:

WEEK 4
February 13, 2017

TOPIC 1: DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Readings:

Readings on the photograph of Aylan Kurdi:

Before class review the photographs in these Time articles (PDFs available on NYU Classes):

WEEK 5
February 20, 2017

NO CLASS.
First paper due on February 21, 2017

WEEK 6
February 27, 2017

TOPIC 2: DOCUMENTARY FILM

Readings:
To be watched at home on NYU Stream:

- Andrea Segre and Dagmawi Yimer, *Come un uomo sulla terra*, Italy (2008), 56 min.
- Andrea Segre, *Il sangue verde*, Italy (2010), 57 min.

**WEEK 7**  
March 6, 2017

**TOPIC 2: DOCUMENTARY FILM**

Readings:


To be watched at home on NYU Stream:

- Francesco Rosi, *Fuocoammare*, 2016, Italy, 1h and 54 min.

**WEEK 8**  
March 13, 2017

**SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

**WEEK 9**  
March 20, 2017

**TOPIC 2: DOCUMENTARY FILM**

Readings:

To be watched at home on NYU Stream:
- Gabriele Del Grande, Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry, and Antonio Augugliaro, Io sto con la sposa, Italy, Italy, 1:38 min (2014).
- Antonio Martino, Niguri, Italy, 47 min (2009).

WEEK 10
March 27, 2017

Second paper due on March 27, 2017

TOPIC 3: FICTION FILM

Readings:
- David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, “The Significance of Film Form,” in *Film Art: An Introduction* by David Bordwell (2003), 47–67. [excerpts]

To be watched at home on NYU Stream:
- Aki Kaurismäki, Le Havre, Finland, 1h and 33 min (2011).

WEEK 11
April 3, 2017

TOPIC 3: FICTION FILM

Readings:
- David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, “Narrative as a Formal System,” in *Film Art: An Introduction* by David Bordwell (2003), 68–105. [excerpts]

To be watched at home on NYU Stream:
- Emanuele Crialese, Terraferma, Italy, 88 min (2011).
WEEK 12  
April 10, 2017

TOPIC 4: ACTIVIST ART

Readings:

Readings on Ai Weiwei:

Readings on Banksy:

WEEK 13,  
April 17, 2017

TOPIC 4: ACTIVIST ART

Readings:


To be watched before class on NYU Stream or Vimeo:


Also read:


**WEEK 14**  
April 24, 2017

**TOPIC 5: MUSIC**

**Readings:**


To be watched before class on NYU Stream or Youtube:
• "M.I.A. - Borders," 4:42 min (2016), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-Nw7HbaeWY.

WEEK 15
May 1, 2016

COURSE REVIEW AND FINAL RESEARCH PAPER WORKSHOP

WEEK 16
May 8, 2016

COURSE REVIEW AND STUDENTS’ PRESENTATIONS ON THEIR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

**Final Research Paper Due MAY 11, by 5pm**