EXPRESSIVE CULTURE: IMAGES, fall 2005

Professor Kenneth E. Silver (Preceptors: Ms. Seema Srivastava and Mr. MurtazaVali)  
Department of Fine Arts

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 9:30-10:45am  
Professor Silver's office hours: Monday, 2:00-4:00pm

Course objectives: This course is intended as an introduction to the rich world of visual images. Western art—Europe and America—will form the basis for most lectures and discussions, but Asia and Africa will figure in the course as well from time to time. Other forms of visual expression not necessarily considered art will also figure in the course occasionally (fashion, advertising, et al.). The goal of the course is to gain a familiarity with varieties of visual expression, and to understand their forms, meanings, contexts, and intentions. It is hoped that the students will both gain an appreciation of visual forms and develop a critical distance in relationship to them. The lectures will be thematic and free-ranging, as outlined on the accompanying syllabus.

Textbook:  
Gombrich, Ernst, The Story of Art (17th edition?),  
Barnett, Sylvan, A Short Guide to Writing about Art  
available at NYU Book Center

Course pack: 6 articles (available at Unique Copy Center, Greene Street, between Waverly and 8th Street, for which the student will write 6 reading synopses)

Requirements:

3 papers (2 short papers, 1 longer paper)

2 quizzes—all images for which students are responsible will be found on the course site on Blackboard

plus: additional short writing and speaking assignments in class, and several gallery and museum visits

All writing assignments must be typed, double-spaced. No hand-written assignments will be accepted. You must retain all your written submissions after they are handed back.

n.b. Any late work, without a written doctor's note, will be severely down-graded. All work must be completed in order to pass the course.

Attendance will be taken in all discussion sections; students must participate in discussions, and participation will be calculated as part of the course grade.

Grade calculation: 50% writing assignments; 30% quizzes; 20% section work and participation.