2014

272-01 Art of the Twentieth Century

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ARTS 272-01 ART OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
Mondays 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Prof. Suzanne Chouteau  chouteau@xavier.edu
Cohen Center 166; work phone: 745-1917 or 3811
OFFICE HOURS: Tues: 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and by appointment

TEXT:  H.H. Arnason's History of Modern Art, 7th Edition

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:
The Art of the 20th Century course focuses primarily on the art of Europe and the United States from roughly 1880 to the present through the study of selected artists and works of art. Furthermore, the course pays special attention to women and minority artists who have played an integral role in the developments of modern and contemporary movements. We will explore the evolution of distinct styles and traditions through lecture, discussions, films, museum trips and individual presentations. The era is dominated by major social, political, cultural and technological upheavals that led to a far more culturally rich art world in the U.S and Europe. Some classes will emphasize social and political expression while others may focus on artistic influence and meaning. The readings from the text provide historical background and comparative material that is not always covered in lecture. The textbook does not duplicate the lectures; please refer to class notes as well as readings for test preparation. An important aspect towards students' understanding the role that art/artists have played throughout history is in their critical inquiry and dialogue while in the classroom. Through this exchange of ideas, we hope to gain further insight into our visual past as it is relative to our visual present, and the ways in which this study can be applied to our own creative work.

This course fulfills Fine Arts (3 hr) requirement of the CORE CURRICULUM promoting such learning outcomes for students as to: be effective communicators in writing and orally; be critical thinkers who analyze and interpret images, objects, and artifacts; discuss fundamental questions that arise from the human condition; be creators of new knowledge and expression utilizing your imagination and creativity; understand and appreciate the arts, be encouraged to use human experience and religious traditions as resources to address contemporary issues; and act as global citizens who recognize the societal, ethical and moral dimensions of art-making.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
• Students will gain further insight into their visual past as it relates to their visual present and the ways in which this study can be applied to their own creative work.
• Students will demonstrate competency in original, critical interpretation of historical works in the form of analytical essays.
• Students will demonstrate competency in oral communication through class discussions and the presentation component of the research projects.
• Students will demonstrate knowledge of course material, i.e., artists, artworks, stylistic periods and concepts, through successful completion of exams.
• Students will understand and be sensitive to issues of diversity as expressed in visual art and will demonstrate this knowledge through class discussion, research projects and exams.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:
Primarily, this is a lecture course that involves the viewing of artworks in slide reproductions. Discussion is generated through the process of viewing the images themselves, and in light of the artists--their ideas, styles, subjects, etc. and the historical context from which they arose. Field visits to the Contemporary Arts Center will supplement the lecture format; films are also incorporated to give students more in-depth views of certain artists or movements in art, etc. Students take four examinations during the course and will be responsible for knowing the monuments illustrated in Arnason's Modern Art and where otherwise specified. Writing requirements: Students will be asked to write one 2-3 page visual analysis on a work of art viewed while at the CAC visit which will be turned in the following week for credit. Students are required to carry out two short research projects on artists from the time period we're studying (they will be drawn from a selected pool in the first half and second half of the semester). Each student presents her/his subject in a short 12-min. (PowerPoint) presentation that gives general historical background and biographical information on their subject and must include plates/color reproductions of the artists and art works discussed, relevant accompanying textual information, and summary bibliography. If you are an art major or minor, a (small) creative work should be produced to accompany research that was inspired by your subject.
EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:

2 Quizzes = 50 points (25 each)  
Grades:  
A  400-375  
C+  315-307  
Mid-Term = 100 points  
Grades:  
A-  374-360  
C  306-293  
Final = 100 points  
Grades:  
B+  359-347  
C-  292-280  
2 Research Projects = 100 points (50 each)  
Grades:  
B  346-336  
D+  279-267  
1 Visual Analysis = 50 points  
Grades:  
B-  335-316  
D  266-240  
F  Below 240

ATTENDANCE POLICY: We will be looking at and discussing images during the course of each class and learning important skills for speaking and writing about Art of the 20th century. Because these class sessions are essential to your learning, attendance is mandatory. There will be a grade deduction for unexcused absences: for ONE absence, your final grade will be lowered one (1) full letter grade. Two (2) “tardies” equals one (1) absence. Arriving late and/or leaving early may result in an absence. NOTE: Excused absences are those documented for a court date, a funeral or an illness.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND LATE WORK POLICY: You are expected to come to class prepared. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. With each class session an assignment is late, it will be dropped one full letter grade. You are also expected to stay awake and alert the entire class period! Please throw away (oops!), I mean turn off cell phones before class begins! Laptop computers are not permitted in this course for taking notes. Treating each other with respect, cordiality and conviviality is ideal! Please be OPEN-MINDED...this is a liberal arts course, so feel liber(al)ated! Occasionally you may be exposed to images or discussion that reference human nudity, sexuality, violence or cultural/religious views different from ones familiar to you. After reading, viewing or discussing the materials you may conclude that moral or personal beliefs or personal preferences prevent you from studying the material objectively. If this should occur, please discuss the situation with me, okay? Okay! And finally, be sure to consult your syllabus before EVERY class! THANKS!

GRADING POLICY:

Grade F will be given for:

- failure to meet course requirements

Grade D will be given for:

- overall poor quality of work, unsatisfactory effort, motivation and improvement during semester
- incomplete or late projects
- absence from class, inadequate participation
- lack of ability to receive advice, criticism and to exercise critical judgment in relation to works in progress
- repeated absences from class (see policy)

Grade C will be given for:

- a) overall average (satisfactory) quality of work, satisfactory motivation, effort and improvement demonstrated during the semester
- b) completion of all projects by the due date
- c) participation in discussions, critiques and classroom exercises
- d) ability to receive advice and criticism, and to exercise critical judgment in relation to work in progress
- e) attendance (see policy)
- f) minimum 5 hours per week spent on readings and assignments

Grade B will be given for:

- a) consistently high quality of work, motivation, effort, and improvement during the entire semester, and demonstrated attempts to go beyond the required standards of the course.
- (b-f) same as for grade C

Grade A will be given for:

- consistently exceptional quality of work, motivation, effort and improvement during the entire semester, with results going far beyond the required standards and framework of the course.
- (b-f) same as for grade C
CLASS SCHEDULE: The chapters listed on each class date need to be READ prior to that class, please & thank you!

AUG. 25: Introduction; class overview; Why are we here?; Chapter 1: The Origins of Modern Art, Chapter 2: The Search for Truth: Early Photography, Realism and Impressionism

SEPT. 1: HAPPY (non) LABOR DAY!

SEPT. 8: Chapter 3: Post-Impressionism; Chapter 4: Arts and Crafts…& Beginnings of Expressionism
Chapter 5: The New Century…; Select your first RESEARCH subject to be presented on Mon. Sept. 29!

SEPT. 15: QUIZ 1; Chapter 6: Expressionism in Germany…; Chapter 7: Cubism

SEPT. 22: Chapter 8: Early Modern Architecture; Chapter 9: European Art after Cubism; Chapter 10: Western Europe during WWI

SEPT. 29: Student (ppt) presentations of first Research subject; discussion
Mid-term study guide & review

OCT. 6: MID-TERM EXAM; Chap. 11: Art in France after WWI

OCT. 13: Meet in class for 35 min/ Chapter 11(cont.); VISIT CAC: FotoFocus: Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs; Peggy Frank Crawford: Visual Analysis assignment—due next class.

OCT. 20: Visual Analysis DUE; Chapter 12: De Stijl and the Pursuit of Geometric Abstraction; Chapter 13: Bauhaus & the Teaching of Modernism; Chapter 14: Surrealism
Select second RESEARCH subject to be presented on Mon. Nov. 24!

OCT. 27: Chapter 15: American Art before WWII; Chapter 16: Abstract Expressionism and New American Sculpture; Chapter 17: Post-War European Art

NOV. 3: QUIZ 2; Chapter 18: Nouveau Realisme and Fluxus; Chapter 19: Chances with Popular Culture; Chapter 20: 1960’s Abstraction

Sun. NOV. 9: class meets at the Cinci Art Museum at 1:00PM: lunch at Terrace Café (on me); view exhibits till 4:30-ishPM

NOV. 10: Chapter 21: Modernism in Arch. Mid-Century; Chapter 22: Conceptual and Activist Art; Chapter 23: Post-Minimalism, Earth Art, and New Imagists

NOV. 17: Chapter 24: Postmodernism; Chapter 25: Painting through History

NOV. 24: Student (ppt) presentations of second Research subject; discussion

DEC. 1: Chapter 26: New Perspectives on Art & Audience; Chapter 27: Contemporary Art and Globalization
Final Exam study guide review

DEC. 8: FINAL EXAM & epilogue!

NOTE: The right to add to or delete from this syllabus is reserved by Prof. Chouteau.
Name:
Class (e.g., Sophomore, Senior, etc.):
Email:
Major:

Why are you taking this course?

Have you had any art history courses before?
   If so, what was the most memorable one?

   If not, what was keeping you away?

Who is your favorite artist(s) from the 20th century? (Note: If you do not know an artist from the 20th century, then name your favorite artist(s) from any period in art history.)

Why is this person(s) your favorite?

I have received and read the syllabus and tentative schedule for ARTS 272-01 Art of the 20th Century. Any questions I have concerning the contents of both have been answered by the instructor.

Signature: ___________________________________________________ Date: ___________