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ARH 141 Introduction to the History of Modern Art

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SYLLABUS – Fall 2018
ARH 141 (Hybrid Course): Introduction to the History of Modern Art



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Course Information: ARH141- H01 (59100); 3 credits

Course schedule: Wednesday, 10:50 - 12:10 pm / Classroom: Fine Arts Building, Room 021

Sharon Jordan, Associate Professor of Art History, Department of Art

Email: sharon.jordan@lehman.cuny.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:15 – 1:45pm & Thursdays, 4:45 - 5:15pm

Office Location: Fine Arts Department, Room 018

(Please be advised that for all email addresses for Lehman faculty and staff, you must spell out Lehman. Student email is addressed to @lc.cuny.edu, but not faculty.)

Course Goals and Learning Objectives:

With this course, students will be introduced to art history and gain a thorough knowledge and understanding of modern art. The art historical coursework will enable students to develop skills in the following areas: the ability to recognize and evaluate basic elements of design; to acquire a working vocabulary associated with the analysis and interpretation of works of art; to compare and contrast individual works of art within their art historical contexts; to analyze and interpret individual artist's styles and content; to construct and deliver clear oral and written presentations of art historical material; and the development of written and verbal communication skills in order to knowledgeably respond to artworks and museum exhibitions.

Course Description:

A study of the principles of art applied to visual forms, with emphasis on modern art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Europe and the U.S.

This course and section is offered as an open-educational resources, so there is no textbook. Each week, students will go to the online class site on the CUNY Academic Commons (*Introduction to the History of Modern Art*) to access materials and assignment information.

LINK: <https://arh141.commons.gc.cuny.edu>

From here, you will access the weekly instructions and course materials by clicking on the tab for the date of the class that was just attended in order to prepare materials for the following class.

For example, after class 1 on August 29, you will be clicking on the tab that says 'class 1 / August 29' in order to read the materials and prepare content for use in class 2.

This section of *Introduction to the History of Modern Art* is also a hybrid course, meeting for an hour and twenty minutes in the classroom and with weekly assignments outside of the classroom providing another hour and twenty minutes minimum of your independent engagement with the material. Students in this hybrid course must be self-sufficient with the awareness that course content will not be communicated through lectures and will not always be reviewed in class.

Each week, students will read and/or watch videos about different modern art styles and analyze artworks within their artistic, historical, political, and social and cultural contexts. It is highly advised that you keep short hand written notes of this material. This will help you to organize your ideas and prepare the content for the weekly writing assignments as well as review for exams and museum assignments later. Students will complete a short weekly written assignment that will summarize, synthesize and/or analyze the assigned material. In class, we will use these

assignments as the basis of in-class discussion and group work to verify the understanding of the content. This writing plays an essential role in demonstrating awareness and understanding of the class material and will be checked in for class participation points.

Course Requirements:

To successfully complete this hybrid course section, you must:

- be able to regularly access a computer and use the internet to complete assignments and access materials
- use and maintain regular access to your Lehman college email address and the course's Blackboard site. All of the hybrid course communications will occur on these platforms.
- Microsoft Word is the required word processing program for all written assignments
- Recommended web browsers include Chrome and Safari
- There are no required prerequisites and the course fulfills the Distribution Area IV.

Grading Policy / Student Assessments: The following values will determine course grades:

25% attendance and weekly assignments checked in at the beginning of class only

25% Final Exam

20% / 15% / 15% - Midterm Exam; Met Museum Assignment #1 and Met Assignment #2: The assignment on which you receive the highest grade from among these three will be worth 20%; the other two will be worth 15% each.

Course Materials:

There is no assigned textbook for this course. It has been developed specifically as an open-educational resources course. Readings will come from a variety of online sources. We will utilize the art history material on the Khan Academy academic website (khanacademy.org), as well as the websites of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (www.metmuseum.org) and the Museum of Modern Art (www.moma.org). Bookmark and explore these sites for use throughout the semester.

If any weekly content is unclear or if you would like further information on a specific modern art subject, consult this textbook on reserve in the library for information and reference: H. H. Arnason and E. Mansfield, *History of Modern Art* (Pearson, 7th edition, 2012). ISBN: 978-0205259472.

Attendance & Class Participation Policy:

Each week, outside of class, students will complete online readings and short assignments as explained and assigned on the class website. We will use your prepared notes and weekly writing assignments in class. Students should have any notes and/or assigned writings and worksheets available for use in class in hand as a hard copy (not on a digital device). Participation points for each week's assignments are only given if the material is available for use in class on its assigned day. If you are late or absent, you won't receive participation points for material after its review.

Attendance for the full class time at every class meeting is required. Being absent or late to class regularly is not acceptable and will negatively affect your grade. CUNY policy is three absences during the semester are grounds for failing a course. If you are absent or foresee an absence, especially when an assignment is due, discuss with me in advance or contact me by email to make necessary arrangements.

Exams and Museum Assignments:

There will be a short midterm exam and a final exam. There will be two written assignments requiring in-person visits to the Met Museum outside of class. The instructions and materials for the exams and paper assignments will be distributed and discussed in class in advance of each due date. All of the class material is available on the class website and/or on the class Blackboard site. No written assignments will be accepted late unless otherwise arranged with me in advance.

Throughout the semester, you will have a consistent, yet manageable workload with a substantial amount of readings and online videos. Being prepared and on-time for class with the weekly writing assignment or notes prepared and ready to use is essential for success in this course. No grade of incomplete (INC) will be given in this course. Continued enrollment in this class signifies that you have read, understand, and will abide by the rules set forth in this syllabus.

Classroom Environment: During in-class work, including review of assignments, plan to use your written notes or hard copy of materials rather than accessing electronic devices.

Only electronic devices being used to actively take notes are permitted for use in class. If you take notes on a laptop or iPad, please show me these notes at the end of the class. Taking notes on phones is not acceptable and phones should not be out or be used during the one hour and twenty-minute class.

It is essential to maintain an environment that promotes education and encourages the participation of all students. Small snacks and beverages are okay if they are not distracting to others. Be respectful of your surroundings by keeping the classroom clean for everyone else and throwing away your garbage in the bins outside the classroom.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a serious part of this course and in the policies of Lehman College. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and the consequences could include failing an assignment or the course, and/or disciplinary actions from the college.

The following definitions are adapted from CUNY policy on academic integrity:

Cheating is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, devices or communication during an academic exercise, including submitting someone else's work as your own, including cutting and pasting web-content into a paper or answer on a written assignment.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research, or writing as your own. Examples include copying another person's work without the use of quotation marks or proper citations, purchasing or downloading papers online, and 'cutting and pasting' from sources on the internet or from books as content in papers without the use of proper attribution and citations.

Students are encouraged to talk with me individually or ask questions in class if you have questions or concerns about what constitutes academic plagiarism or when and how to use citations properly.

A full explanation of the college's policies on these matters can be consulted online at:
<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/student-affairs/documents/student-handbook-02.pdf>.

Blackboard and Email Information:

Blackboard can be accessed through the Lehman website: www.lehman.cuny.edu.

All paperwork will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard.

All class email communications will only be sent to your Lehman email address. It is important that you check this email address to stay informed and keep the account active, even if it is not your primary email. If you have any questions about your Lehman email address, your password, CUNYfirst, or if you have trouble with Blackboard, please call the computer help desk at 718-960-1111.

Accommodating Disabilities:

Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. Students with disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are required to register with the Office of Student Disability Services. For information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services, Shuster Hall, Room 238; phone 718-960-8441.

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE): ACE is a tutoring center on campus that provides assistance specifically related to writing in the humanities. They will review a draft of your work in advance of due dates to help you with grammar, punctuation, paragraph structure, or other writing issues. They accept drop-ins, but it is preferred and more effective if you make an appointment to work with a writing tutor for one or regular meetings in advance of any due dates so that you can prepare any written drafts in advance of your appointment. They also offer general writing and academic skills workshops on a regular basis. To obtain more information, visit their website <http://www.lehman.edu/issp> or call ACE at 718-960-8175.

Students are strongly encouraged to download and become familiar with the Student Handbook: <http://www.lehman.edu/campus-life/support-services.php>

Museum Resources and Information:

Metropolitan Museum of Art – Met Museum: www.metmuseum.org

The Met is on Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street. You can take the 4, 5, or 6 trains to 86th Street, where you will exit the station at Lexington Avenue and walk a few blocks west and four blocks south (ten minute walk from subway station to museum). The Met Museum is ‘pay-what-you-wish’, with a New York State or valid student I.D. meaning you have to pay something, but the amount is entirely up to you. I usually pay \$1 or \$2 per person.

The Met’s collection includes art from every world region and time period spanning ancient history to the present. For the purposes of our modern art course, the Met has one of the best collections in the country related to Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. They have a decent collection of modern art of all the major movements of the 20th Century with Abstract Expressionism the most extensive.

Museum of Modern Art - MoMA: moma.org

11 West 53 Street; between Fifth and Sixth Avenues

The MoMA is free for CUNY students with a valid I.D. You *do not* need to wait in the long ticket line with the tourists. Instead, proceed directly to the ‘group members’ desk. There, show your I.D. for a ticket. You can also purchase a guest ticket for \$5. When the MoMA is free for everyone on Friday evenings, it gets very crowded and is not a good time to visit and the museum is always busy on weekends. This museum is always crowded, so be patient and allow yourself sufficient time to navigate the galleries.

The MOMA’s permanent collection is arranged chronologically with the 5th floor starting with the Post-Impressionists from the 1880s/90s onwards. The 4th floor has a changing rotation of art made since the 1940s. Contemporary art is in galleries on the 3rd floor.

ARH 141 Course Outline

Class 1 / August 29: In-class: Course Introduction and Overview of Modern Art
Assignment for next class: Access materials on CUNY Academic Commons class website
Introduction to the History of Modern Art (<https://arh141.common.gc.cuny.edu>); click on tab for 'Class 1 / August 29' to read the material and instructions and the assignments for the week.

Wednesday, September 5 - CUNY follows a Monday schedule – no class.

Class 2 / September 12: In class: review terms and concept introductory assignment
Assignment for next class: Introduction to Modern Art and Impressionism

Wednesday, September 19 - CUNY holiday – no Wednesday classes.

Class 3 / September 26: In class: Impressionism
Assignment for next class: *La Belle Epoque*: Symbolism and Post-Impressionism

Class 4 / October 3: In class: Symbolism and Post-Impressionism
Assignment for next class: Met Museum Assignment #1 (Impressionism, Symbolism and Post-Impressionism)

Class 5 / October 10: In class: **Met Museum Assignment #1 Due**
Assignment for next class: Fauvism

Class 6 / October 17: In class: Fauvism
Assignment for next class: German Expressionism

Class 7 / October 24: In class: German Expressionism
Assignment for next class: midterm preparation and review

Class 8 / October 31: In class: **Midterm Exam**
Assignment for next class: Cubism

Class 9 / November 7: In class: Cubism
Assignment for next class: Italian Futurism and Russian Constructivism

Class 10 / November 14: In class: Italian Futurism and Russian Constructivism
Assignment for next class: Dada and *De Stijl*

Class 11 / November 21: In class: Dada and *De Stijl*
Assignment for next class: Surrealism

Class 12 / November 28: In class: Surrealism
Assignment for next class: Abstract Expressionism

Class 13 / December 5: In class: Abstract Expressionism; **Met Museum Assignment #2 due**
Assignment for next class: Pop Art and Minimalism

Class 14 / December 12: In class: Pop Art and Minimalism
Assignment for next class: final exam preparation and review

Class 15 / December 19: **Final Exam**