



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

CL921 Introduction to Western Art from Renaissance to the Present

Term: May 29 – June 23, 2017

Instructor: Professor Ross Hamilton

Home Institution: Barnard College, Columbia University, New York City

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Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 120 minutes each day

Discussion session: 2.5 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 66 contact hours (45 minutes each, 3000 minutes in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description

This course will survey the history of Western art from the Renaissance to the present. Lectures and discussion will be supplemented by accompanied by sketching practice, serving both as an aid to memorization and giving an awareness of artistic form and technique.

Course Goals

This course will acquaint students with the key artistic moments, and key artworks, in the West from the Renaissance to the Present. Throughout, the lectures will link the art works to the historical moment of their production. We will also learn the central concepts as well as skills of art interpretation. Finally, exercises in sketching artwork will allow us to consider the acts of creation for the artworks under consideration.

Required Textbooks

Janson's Basic History of Western Art (Pearson)

We will also supply you with a reader that contains additional materials, both primary sources that inform our understanding of the artist or artwork, as well as critical essays that help us interpret it. As well as the assigned textbook reading, you should expect one reading from source material and one critical reading per two-hour lecture.

Course Requirements

Final Grade Percentages

- ✧ Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation is requested.
- ✧ 2 Reaction Papers (20% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4 pages) on key artistic movements. Reaction papers will describe the artwork



assigned, identify the central innovations and techniques used to create the work, and then consider the relation of that work to the period in which it was created – both as innovation as well as a reflection of aesthetic practice.

- ✧ Midterm 20%
- ✧ Final Exam 30%: overall evaluation at end of semester

A note on participation. This is a lecture course, but students are expected to follow the lectures closely and be prepared to answer occasional questions asked in class by the professor. Students will be expected to participate fully in the discussion sections led by the teaching assistant.

Grading Policy

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Course Schedule

Note: for each section, read the accompanying material in Janson, as well as the assigned essay and primary source.

Part One: The Renaissance

Introduction: Introduction to the History of Art and its terminology, aesthetics and form, the nature of a formal reading, the practice of sketching. Introduction to Renaissance: history, philosophy, theology.

Art in Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century Italy
Artistic Innovations in Fifteenth-Century Europe

The Early Renaissance in Fifteenth-Century Europe
The High Renaissance in Italy, 1495-1520

Paper: A formal analysis of an artwork not analyzed in lecture.



Part Two: From Mannerism to the Rococo

The Late Renaissance and Mannerism in Sixteenth-Century Italy
Renaissance and Reformation throughout Sixteenth-Century Europe
The Baroque in Italy and Spain
The Baroque in the Netherlands and France
The Baroque in England, the Rococo.

Part Three: From the Enlightenment to Art Nouveau

Midterm Exam

Part One: Art Identifications

Part Two: Essay

Art in the Age of the Enlightenment

Art in the Age of Romanticism

Realism, Impressionism and the Pre-Raphaelites

Post-Impressionism, Symbolism and Art Nouveau 1848-1885

Paper 2:

Comparative analysis of an object from the Enlightenment to Art Nouveau

Part Four: From Abstraction to the Post-Modern Era

The Modernist Revolution

Art between the Wars

Post-War to Postmodern 1945-1980

The Post-Modern Era

Final Exam

Part One: Quote Identifications from ENTIRE COURSE

Part Two: Essay