

## ART 342: MODERN ART II: WESTERN ART, 1880-1960

RHODES COLLEGE, FALL 2011

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### Outline

*Modern Art II* is a survey of major art movements of the western world, from the late-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, beginning with Post-Impressionism and ending with Abstract Expressionism. Amongst other issues, this course will explore the meaning of modernism, the social and aesthetic goals of the avant-garde, and the emergence of abstraction. Movements discussed include symbolism, fauvism, cubism, futurism, dada, surrealism, and abstract expressionism.

Art 342 is the second course in a three-part sequence designed to trace the development of modernism in the visual arts in the West since the eighteenth century. Though the emphasis of the course is on the visual arts, the ideas examined are applicable to courses covering the same chronological period in history, languages, and philosophy. The reading assignments and class discussions will challenge you to consider art's relationship to broader culture in this period, while the course research paper aims to hone your critical, interpretative, and writing skills. The course exams are designed to ensure that you have mastered all of these objectives through the identification of key works of art and the explication of their significance in relation to the broader themes of the class. This course is excellent preparation for upper division courses in late-modern and contemporary art history and theory. It is an intermediate level course with no prerequisites. Art 342 is a combination lecture and discussion course.

N.b., Although we will attempt to adhere as closely as possible to this syllabus, details are subject to change.

### Required books:

- **H. H. Arnason, *History of Modern Art*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Prentice Hall, 2010.**
- **Herschel B. Chipp, *Theories of Modern Art*, University of California Press, 1968**

### Recommended books:

- **Sylvan Barnet, *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Longman, 2008.**

### Important dates:

9/6: Visual analysis due	11/22: Futurist Thanksgiving
9/15: Quiz 1	11/24: Thanksgiving (no class)
9/22: Reading day (no class)	11/29: Writing portion for work-shopping due
9/27: Research paper topic due	12/1: Research paper peer edit
10/11: Quiz 2	12/6: Research paper due
10/18 fall recess	12/6: Quiz 4
11/1: Abstract and annotated bibliography due	12/8: Reading day
11/3: Quiz 3	12/12: Final exam (8:30am)

## Week 1

8/25, Thursday – Introduction

## Week 2

8/30, Tuesday – Art and Art Institutions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 1-41	

9/1, Thursday – Post-Impressionism I: Seurat, Cézanne

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 51-60	
Chipp: 16; 21-23	

## Week 3

9/6, Tuesday – Post-Impressionism II: Van Gogh, Gauguin, Toulouse-Lautrec

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 69-75; 79-81	
Chipp: 31-34; 40-41; 58-60; 79	
Visual analysis due	

9/8, Thursday – Symbolism, Decadence, and the *fin de siècle*

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 60-62; 82-86; 94-109	

## Week 4

9/13, Tuesday – Primitivism in Modern Art

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Chipp, 'On primitivism', pp. 78-86.	Gill Perry, "Primitivism and the Modern"

9/15, Thursday– Quiz 1

## Week 5

9/20, Tuesday – Expressionism in France: Matisse and the Fauves

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 110-128	

9/22, Thursday – Reading day (no class). Please investigate research paper topics

## Week 6

### 9/27, Tuesday – Modern Sculpture: From Rodin to Brancusi

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 64-69; 128-132	
<b>Research paper subjects due. Be prepared to share your work with the class, even if you are unsatisfied with your progress. Arrange for individual meetings.</b>	

### 9/29, Thursday – Expressionism in Austria and Germany Part I: Die Brücke

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 133-143	

## Week 7

### 10/4, Tuesday – Cubism

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 158-192	
Chipp, 'On Les Demoiselles d'Avignon', p. 266.	

### 10/6, Thursday – Futurism and de Stijl

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason, pp.206-219; 286-296	
Chipp, 'The Foundation and Manifesto of Futurism', 284-289; 'Technical Manifesto of Futurist sculpture', pp. 298-304. 'Natural Reality and Abstract Reality', pp. 321-323.	

## Week 8

### 10/11, Tuesday – Quiz 2

### 10/13, Thursday – Expressionism in Germany Part II: Der Blaue Reiter

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason, pp. 143-152	

## Week 9

### 10/18, Tuesday – Fall recess (no class)

### 10/20, Thursday – School of Paris after WWI

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason, 264-284	

## Week 10

### 10/25, Tuesday – The Bauhaus

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason, pp. 297-317	

### 10/27, Thursday – Dada in Western Europe and New York City

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason, pp. 235-254	
Chipp, 'En Avant Dada', 377-382	

## Week 11

### 11/1, Tuesday – Marcel Duchamp

Read: Books	Read: Readings
	'The Richard Mutt Case', <i>The Blind Man</i> , New York, no.2, May 1917. <a href="http://radicalart.info/things/readymade/duchamp/text.html">http://radicalart.info/things/readymade/duchamp/text.html</a>

Annotated bibliography and abstracts due.

### 11/3, Thursday – Quiz 3

## Week 12

### 11/8, Tuesday – Surrealism part I

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 318-359	Salvador Dalí, "Un Chien Andalou" (1929)
	André Breton, "The Mediums Enter" (1922)
	André Breton, 'After Dada' (1922)

### 11/10, Thursday – Surrealism part II

Read: Books	Read: Readings

## Week 13

### 11/15, Tuesday –The Rise of Fascism in Europe

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Chipp, 'Speech inaugurating the 'Great Exhibition of German Art', 474-483	

### 11/17, Thursday –How New York Stole the Idea of Modern Art

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Chipp, 'Statement', 544-45	Greenberg: 'Avant-garde and Kitsch': <a href="http://www.sharecom.ca/greenberg/kitsch.html">http://www.sharecom.ca/greenberg/kitsch.html</a>

## Week 14

### 11/22, Tuesday – Futurist Thanksgiving

11/24, Thursday – Thanksgiving (no class)

## Week 15

### 11/29, Tuesday – Abstract Expressionism and the Cold War

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason, pp. 403-428	Eva Cockcroft, "Abstract Expressionism, Weapon of the Cold War."
Chipp, 'Modern Art Shackled to Communism', 496-500; Pollock, 'Statements', p. 546.	Greenberg: 'Avant-garde and Kitsch': <a href="http://www.sharecom.ca/greenberg/kitsch.html">http://www.sharecom.ca/greenberg/kitsch.html</a>
<b>Prepare a significant portion of writing to share with the group</b>	

### 12/1, Thursday – European Art After the War

Read: Books	Read: Readings
Arnason: pp. 439-454; 465-468	
Chipp: 'Statements, 1952-55' and 'Interview, 1963,' 620-22.	
<b>Final peer edit</b>	

## **Week 16**

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**12/6, Tuesday – Quiz 4**

**Research paper due**

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**12/8, Thursday – Reading day (no class)**

## **Final**

**Monday, December 12, 8:30 a.m.**