

**ART 475 / 875 Topics in Art: Art Since 1945**  
**(a.k.a. Late Modernism through Contemporary Art History)**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:30 – 11:20 am  
Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design, Room 103

**Social distancing will be enforced in the classroom when possible.**  
**Masks are strongly encouraged.**

**Instructor Information:**

Erica S. Bittel

Instructor, Department of Art and Design

Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design, Room 217

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Office Hours:

**M / W / F:** 8:00 – 9:15 am

**T / Th:** 9:00 – 11:00 am

Appointments by request.

**Course Information:**

Pre-requisite: ART 201 Survey of Art History I and ART 202 Survey of Art History II **or** instructor permission.

This course is a survey of major works of European and American art the many schools and styles developing within these cultures. Our study will begin with late modernism and conclude with contemporary art and will include all forms of art, with a focus on painting, sculpture, and the formal analysis of the artwork. As a foundation for interpreting these works, emphasis will be placed on the social, religious/spiritual, and political contexts in which artists worked and various art movements were developed.

**Course Objectives:**

- Recognize the art styles, movements, and major artists of the period.
- Assess the relationship between the development of major art styles and movements and the political, social, and intellectual ideas of the period.
- Identify the influences of both past and contemporary art on the evolution of major art movements and artists.

- Analyze and evaluate 20<sup>th</sup>-century visual material while employing descriptive, conceptual, and appropriate vocabulary.
- **FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY:** Evaluate the various theories of art historians, critics, and philosophers concerning the artistic developments of the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Course Resources:**

*History of Modern Art*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition

by H. H. Arnason and Elizabeth C. Mansfield

Publisher: Pearson Education, Inc.

ISBN: 0-205-25947-2

978-0-205-25947-2

Khan Academy – Art History Basics – a great resource containing a glossary of terms, tools for understanding art, and discussions of various materials and techniques

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history/art-history-basics>

Metropolitan Museum of Art: <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Art History Resources: <http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html>

Smithsonian: <http://www.si.edu>

Getty: <http://www.getty.edu>

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston: <http://www.mfa.org>

UNESCO World Heritage: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/158/>

World Monument Fund: [www.wmf.org](http://www.wmf.org)

**Evaluation and Grading:**

All grades, including extra credit, will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading will be based on the accuracy of responses to examination questions, substance, clarity, and quality of written work, and the effort made to learn the material and contribute in a positive way to your personal success in the class. A variety of extra credit assignments will also be offered throughout the course of the semester.

An Incomplete (or “I”) grade will only be given in extreme cases and at the discretion of the instructor.

Undergraduate:

2 Exams (100 points each)	200 points
Research Project	200 points
Final Exam	200 points

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**Total: 600 points**

Graduate:

2 Exams (100 points each)	200 points
Discussion / Participation	100 points
Research Paper and Presentation	300 points
Final Exam	200 points

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**Total: 800 points**

**Grading Scale:**

100 - 90 = A

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

59 - 0 = U

**Attendance:**

The study of art history requires familiarity with a large number of images and concepts. Excessive absences will therefore jeopardize your final grade. It is your responsibility to make up all materials missed due to absence.

**More than three UNEXCUSED absences will result in a deduction from your final grade (typically a whole letter grade). Five UNEXCUSED absences will result in a U letter grade / failure of the course.**

If you miss an exam and/or deadline because of illness or other emergency, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible. **Make-up examinations will ONLY be given for DOCUMENTED reasons involving personal, medical, and / or family emergencies.**

Make-up examinations will not be given for oversleeping, club activities, computer malfunctions, jobs, and/or routine doctor (or other) appointments.

**Electronic Devices:**

**ALL cell phones / electronic devices must be PUT AWAY and SILENCED while students are in class.** The use laptop computers is permitted **ONLY** if students are using the computers to take notes or for purposes related to the class.

**Academic Honesty:**

All assignments must be your own work! Visual and/or written plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to read FHSU's Academic Honesty Policy, which is found in the University Catalog and online at:

[https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch\\_2\\_academic\\_honesty/](https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/)

**Students with Special Needs:**

FHSU provides assistance to students with disabilities or special needs. Students are encouraged to read the Services for Students with Disabilities section of the University catalog, which is available online at: <http://www.fhsu.edu/disability/>

**Title IX:**

FHSU is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender, and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all types of gender and relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact Amy Schaffer, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at [alschaffer@fhsu.edu](mailto:alschaffer@fhsu.edu) or (785) 628-4175. The Compliance Officer can help connect you to campus and outside resources, discuss all of your reporting options, and assist with any concerns you may have.

**Student Support Services:**

- FHSU Tiger Tech: <https://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/>
- Forsyth Library: <http://www.fhsu.edu/library>
- Writing Center: <https://www.fhsu.edu/writingcenter/index>

## **Timeline of Readings and Assignments:**

Timeline is subject to modification; review and exam dates will be decided as a class.

### **Week 1 (January 18):**

Introduction

Brief review of the “-isms” leading up to 1945

### **Week 2 (January 24):**

Chapter 15 – American Art Before World War II

### **Week 3 (January 31):**

Chapter 16 – Abstract Expressionism and the New American Sculpture

### **Week 4 (February 7):**

Chapter 16 – Abstract Expressionism and the New American Sculpture, cont’d.

### **Week 5 (February 14):**

Chapter 17 – Postwar European Art

### **Week 6 (February 21):**

Chapter 18 – *Nouveau Réalisme* and Fluxus

**Research Plan due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**SEE BLACKBOARD FOR DETAILS**

### **Week 7 (February 28):**

Chapter 19 – Taking Chances with Popular Culture

### **Week 8 (March 7):**

Chapter 19 – Taking Chances with Popular Culture, cont’d.

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**Week 9 (March 14): SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES**

**Week 10 (March 21):**

Chapter 20 – Playing by the Rules: 1960s Abstraction

**Research Log due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**SEE BLACKBOARD FOR DETAILS**

**Week 11 (March 28):**

Chapter 20 – Playing by the Rules: 1960s Abstraction, cont'd.

**Week 12 (April 4):**

Chapter 21 – Modernism in Architecture at Mid-Century

**Week 13 (April 11):**

Chapter 22 – Conceptual and Activist Art

**Annotated Bibliography due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**SEE BLACKBOARD FOR DETAILS**

**Week 14 (April 18):**

Chapter 23 – Post-Minimalism, Earth Art, and the New Imagists

**Week 15 (April 25):**

Chapter 24 – Postmodernism

**Week 16 (May 2):**

Chapter 27 – Contemporary Art and Globalization

Wrap-up and Conclusion

Final Exam Review – date TBA

**Week 17 (Finals Week):**

**Final Exam on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am - 12:10 pm**