

**ART 875 D**  
**SEMINAR: LATE MODERN TO CONTEMPORARY ART HISTORY**

**Tuesday, 8:00-8:50 am**

Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design, Room 103

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Erica S. Bittel, Ph.D.

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 – 10:00 am

Appointments by request.

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

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.
- 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

Guggenheim Museums and Foundation: <https://www.guggenheim.org/>

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010>

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

MoMA: <https://www.moma.org/>

Musée d'Orsay: <https://www.musee-orsay.fr/en>

Museo Reina Sofía: <https://www.museoreinasofia.es/en>

Stedelijk Museum: <https://www.stedelijk.nl/en>

Tate Modern: <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>

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

2 Exams (100 points each)	200 points
Discussion / Participation	100 points
Research Paper	300 points
Final Exam	200 points
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>800 points</b>

**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.

Students will lose 5 attendance points for each absence and 3 attendance points for each tardy.

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

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

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

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

**SPECIAL LEARNING CONDITIONS / ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Fort Hays State University, in accordance with The Americans With Disabilities Act, provides assistance and resources for students with disabilities. The Student Accessibility Services office is located within Health and Wellness Services in the Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success, Room 301, 785-628-4401. This is the appropriate office for students, faculty or staff to contact to verify and notify the University of a student's documented disability. After verification of a

documented disability, the Student Accessibility Services office will initiate a request for services. Students should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class if they require special accommodations for test taking, carrying out assignments, or any other need for assistance.

### **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 Laurie Larrick, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at [lelarrick@fhsu.edu](mailto:lelarrick@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.

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

Introduction

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

### **Week 2 (August 25):**

Chapter 15 – American Art Before World War II

### **Week 3 (September 1):**

Chapter 16 – Abstract Expressionism and the New American Sculpture

### **Week 4 (September 8):**

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

### **Week 5 (September 15):**

Chapter 17 – Postwar European Art

### **Week 6 (September 22):**

Chapter 18 – *Nouveau Réalisme* and Fluxus

**Abstract / Proposal due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025.**

### **Week 7 (September 29):**

Chapter 19 – Taking Chances with Popular Culture

### **Week 8 (October 6):**

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

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### **Week 9 (October 13):**

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

**Week 10 (October 20):**

Chapter 20 – Playing by the Rules: 1960s Abstraction

**Annotated Bibliography due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025.**

**Week 11 (October 27):**

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

**Week 12 (November 3):**

Chapter 21 – Modernism in Architecture at Mid-Century

**Week 13 (November 10):**

Chapter 22 – Conceptual and Activist Art

**Research Paper Introduction due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, November 11th, 2025.**

**Week 14 (November 17):**

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

Chapter 24 – Postmodernism

**Week 15 (November 24):**

**FALL BREAK – NO CLASS**

**Week 16 (December 1):**

Chapter 27 – Contemporary Art and Globalization

**A hard copy of the Research Paper is due IN CLASS at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025.**

**Week 17 (December 8): FINALS WEEK**