

Art 405: History of Modern Art
Dr. Emily Newman
Texas A&M University - Commerce

TR 12:30-1:45, JOUR 129, Spring 2020
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

ART 405 is a focused class designed to introduce students to the major artistic movements in the United States and Europe from 1900 to 1960, while acquainting them with the discipline of art history and the skills necessary for the interpretation and analysis of visual information. We will discuss the artwork and major historical and cultural events that influenced the production of Modern art, along with concerns of art-producers and the arts establishment. This class will require students to *memorize* a number of images that represent the historical span of the course and to *demonstrate the analytical skills* necessary to communicate visual information. Students will therefore need to read the assigned texts on time, take part in class discussions, and be able to communicate their knowledge in writing. Our goal for this class is to create a strong foundation in modern art, while developing the skills necessary for discussing art in an informal setting, as well as an academic one. Students will also complete one major research assignment, requiring an investigation of one major movement and idea in the modern period and discussing the artistic representation that parallels an important artistic text.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- discuss and explain historically significant works of modern art
- become acquainted with the characteristic features of the major styles and movements popularized from the end of the 19th century to mid-20th century.
- learn to analyze the relationships among content, context, and style
- acquire a working knowledge of the specialized vocabulary used in art history
- become able to analyze important historical documents and criticism
- enhance visual literacy and critical thinking skills

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSESSMENT

Students' ability to meet the course objectives and learning outcomes will be evaluated through written assignments, class participation, exams, and essay questions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Ann Dempsey, *Styles, Schools and Movements: The Essential Encyclopaedic Guide to Modern Art*, 2nd Edition (London: Thames and Hudson, 2011) ISBN: 0500288445
Charles Harrison and Paul Wood, ed. *Art in Theory 1900-2000: An Anthology of Changing Ideas* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2002) ISBN: 0631227083

Additional readings will be made available on ecollege. You are expected to bring the book or reading to class on the day due, as well as paper and pen/pencil each class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grade Breakdown:

5% Participation
10% Written Assignments
20% Research Project
20% Test 1
20% Test 2
25% Final Exam

GRADE SCALE

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Participation: Each person is expected to come to class prepared, which means having done the reading and/or worksheet and ready to engage in the class. The class should not just be a lecture, rather, people are encouraged to speak up, contribute to the conversation and ask questions. At the beginning of class, students may be asked to write up responses to the readings, which will count towards participation.

Attendance: Each student in this course is allowed no more than **three** unexcused absences. Each absence after three results in the lowering of the grade by 1/3 of a letter grade. When a student accrues **more than eight unexcused absences** the instructor has the right to drop the student from the course or to give a failing grade.

Unexcused absences require no explanation. For an absence to be considered excused, appropriate documentation must be presented. Excused absences are defined in The Student Guidebook and various university policies, but the policy employed in this class is confined to the following: (1) Participation in pre - approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University - related academic reasons; (2) Verifiable legal proceedings; (3) Documented cases of illness, injury, or emergencies. **All such excuses must be shown to the instructor in original, written, documentary form within 7 days of the absence(s) together with a photocopy for the instructor's records.** (Please understand that this copy is a student's only record of an absence.) In lieu of documentation, the absences become unexcused and are counted as such.

Exams:

Throughout the course, you will have three exams. They will have three components: slide identifications (where you must identify the artist/title/date/style), short answer questions, and an essay question regarding readings and styles discussed. These will NOT be cumulative - only covering material immediately preceding the exam.

Research Project:

There will be one research project, of which more information will be handed out later. The assignment must be handed in on time at the beginning of class and **will NOT be accepted via email**. For each class period late (and if not handed in at the start of class), the grade will be deducted one letter grade. **Assignments will NOT be accepted over ONE week late.**

Academic Dishonesty: There is **no tolerance** for any kind of academic dishonesty in this course. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, and misrepresenting absences. Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, expulsion from class and/or the University, and a failing grade. More info below:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Note: Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the school or local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment must be uploaded online on time. For each class day late, the grade will be deducted one letter grade. **Assignments will NOT be accepted over ONE week late.**

FORMATTING

All written assignments must be typed using the following guidelines: 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins, double-spaced, with page numbers. Failure to format properly will result in a lower grade. Artwork titles **MUST** be italicized.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Statement on Student Behavior:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenet of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If the instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42 – 46 of the Texas A&M University-Commerce Student guidebook's Codes of Conduct for details.

Prohibited during class:

- **Cell Phones/Blackberries/MP3 Players:** Please keep these devices off while class is in session. It is disrespectful to your classmates. No cell phones are allowed during exam sessions. If you need to check the time, consult the clock in the classroom. Repeated use of these devices will result in being asked to leave.
- **Computers and tablets**
- **Headphones or Sunglasses of any kind**
- **Sleeping**
- **Smoking of any kind, including e-cigarettes**
- **Disruptive or distracting behavior:** Texting, conversing with other students during class, loud eating, etc.
- **Repeated entering/exiting the classroom:** Please be on time to class. Not only is disruptive to the class environment, but you could miss important class announcements. This is a short class, so there should be no need to come in and out throughout the class period. Repeated tardiness will count with absences, and will result in a lower grade.

Discussion: In this class, we will look at a wide array of artwork, some of which might include nudity, intense language, violence, etc. Each person will bring their own experiences to the art, and should feel comfortable expressing their opinions and vulnerabilities. The classroom is a safe environment, and each student should behave with integrity and treat their peers with respect.

IMPORTANT HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES:

All students enrolled in face-to-face studio art courses are required to comply with the procedures and policies of the Department of Art's Health and Safety Guidelines. The Guidelines cover activities in all A&M-Commerce art facilities on both the main campus and off-campus sites. Please report any safety issues immediately to your instructor(s), facilities technician / Health & Safety liaison, or studio / lab assistant. At the beginning of each semester in every course, the instructor will discuss with their students the inherent risks associated with art facilities and make sure they have read and completed the online Health & Safety Guidelines form.

Department of Art, Health & Safety Guidelines

<https://sites.tamuc.edu/art/resources/healthandsafety/>

STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ADA ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

After contacting the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of what accommodations are needed **IN ADVANCE** of when they are needed (for example, if testing accommodations are necessary, please inform the instructor with appropriate documentation at LEAST one week before the test date).

EMAIL POLICY:

Email is the preferred form of communication, with a general response time of 24 hours during the week (do not expect replies over the weekend). For all emails sent, please **include full name, student ID, and the class** that you are attending. Do not send emails to myself and other professors at once, as each professor has different issues to address. You are allotted three absences for this course; plan accordingly and there is no need to contact me about unexcused absences that are incorporated into this allowance. For excused absences, you need to bring in a hard copy of appropriate documentation of your absence.

TEST AND GRADE POLICY:

Make-up exams will be administered **only** in instances of excused absences (and acceptable documentation) and may not be designed in the same format as the regularly-scheduled exam. When an excused absence causes a student to miss an exam, it is the student's responsibility to inform--or to have someone else notify--the instructor within **4 days** of the exam. If permitted, these exams **must** be made up within two weeks of the scheduled date, at a time and place determined by the professor.

Assignments are due at the start of the class on the assigned date. Late work will only be accepted for one week after the due date, and the grade will be penalized. Concerning grade decisions, I will not discuss specific grades on ANY assignment or test the day it is returned. If you have concerns regarding a grade, email me **within one week of receiving the assignment back** clearly explaining why you think the assignment was addressed incorrectly. After the email is received, we will then set up an appointment to discuss the concern.

*** THERE WILL BE ONE EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT BASED ON A VISIT TO A MAJOR BUILDING IN DALLAS OR FORT WORTH, ASSIGNED AT A LATER DATE***

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS).

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROGRAMS NEEDED

At a minimum, you must have access to and be able to use Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Modern Art 1900-1960 - Class Schedule*

The Foundations of Modernism: End of the 19th Century to WWI

1/14 – The Making of Modern Art

SSM: Impressionism

1/16 – Post-Impressionism

A&T: Paul Signac, from *Eugène Delacroix to Neo-Impressionism*, 15-18

A&T: Paul Gauguin, Letter to Fontainas, 18-20

SSM: Neo-Impressionism, Nabis, Post-Impressionism, Synthetism

1/21 – Arts and Crafts/Skyscraper

A&T: Wright, “The Art and Craft of the Machine,” handout

A&T: Sullivan, “The Tall Building Artistically Considered,” handout

SSM: Arts and Crafts, Chicago School

1/23 – Symbolism and Art-Nouveau

A&T: Sigmund Freud, “On Dreams” selection, 21-27

SSM: Decadent Movement, Art Nouveau, Modernisme, Symbolism, Jugendstil, Vienna Secession

1/28– Matisse and Fauvism / Modern Sculpture

A&T: Henri Matisse, “Notes on a Painter,” 69-74

SSM: Fauvism, Expressionism

1/30 – German Expressionism

A&T: Wassily Kandinsky, *Concerning the Spiritual in Art* selection, 82-89

A&T: Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Programme of the Brücke, 65

A&T: Emil Nolde, “On Primitive Art,” 96-7

SSM: Expressionism, Die Brücke, Der Blaue Reiter

2/4 – Expressionism Continued

2/6 - Cubism

A&T: Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler, *Rise of Cubism* selection, 208-13

A&T: Georges Braque, “Thoughts on Painting,” 214-15

SSM: Cubism

2/11 – European Abstraction after Cubism

A&T: F.T. Marinetti, “The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism,” 146-50

A&T: Kasimir Malevich, “Non-Objective Art and Suprematism,” 292-93

SSM: Orphism, Futurism, Rayonism, Suprematism

2/13 – American Art at the Turn of the Century

SSM: Ashcan School

2/18 - TEST #1

A&T: Art In Theory: 1900-2000

SSM: Styles, Schools, and Movements

Modern Art 1900-1960 - Class Schedule*
Art During and Between WWI and WWII

2/20 – Constructivism and Dada

A&T: Hugo Ball, "Dada Fragments," 250-52

A&T: Marcel Duchamp, "The Richard Mutt Case," 252

A&T: Tristan Tzara, "Dada Manifesto 1918," 252-56

SSM: Constructivism, Dada

2/25 – American Modernism – **Graphic Novel Project Due**

SSM: Synchronism, Precisionism

2/27 – De Stijl

A&T: De Stijl, "Manifesto I," 281

A&T: Piet Mondrian, "Dialogue on the New Plastic," 284-89

A&T: Mondrian, *Neo-Plasticism*, 289-91

SSM: De Stijl, Elementarism, Concrete Art

3/3 - Germany/France

A&T: Otto Dix, "The Object is Primary," 408

SSM: Neue Sachlichkeit, Organic Abstraction

3/5 – Bauhaus and Modern Architecture

A&T: Walter Gropius, "The Theory and Organization of the Bauhaus," 309-313

SSM: Bauhaus, International Style

3/10 and 3/12 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

3/17 – Surrealism

A&T: André Breton, from the First Manifesto of Surrealism, 447-52

A&T: Salvador Dali, "The Stinking Ass," 486-89

A&T: Max Ernst, "What is Surrealism?" 491-92

SSM: Surrealism, Magic Realism

3/19 – Photography

A&T: Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," 520-7

SSM: Social Realism

3/24 – Beyond American Modernism

A&T: Clement Greenberg, "Avant-Garde and Kitsch," 539-48

SSM: American Scene

3/26 – TBA

3/31 - TEST #2

A&T: Art In Theory: 1900-2000

SSM: Styles, Schools, and Movements

Modern Art 1900-1960 - Class Schedule*
Postwar Art: 1945-1960

4/2 – Architectural Developments

4/7 – TBA

4/9 – North American Figurative Art

A&T: André Breton, Diego Rivera, and Leon Trotsky, "Towards a Free Revolutionary Art," 532-536

A&T: Diego Rivera, "The Revolutionary Spirit in Modern Art," 421-23

A&T: David A. Siqueiros, "Towards a Transformation of the Plastic Arts," 429-31

4/14 – Abstract Expressionism I

A&T: Harold Rosenberg, from "The American Action Painters," 589-92

A&T: Clement Greenberg, "Towards a Newer Laocoon," 562-68

SSM: Abstract Expressionism

4/16 – TBA

4/19 – Abstract Expressionism II

A&T: Barnett Newman, "The Sublime is Now," 580-82

4/21 - TBA

4/23 – Post-War Sculpture and Photography

A&T: Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Search for the Absolute," 611-15

4/28 – Post-War European Art

A&T: Jean Dubuffet, "Crude Art Preferred to Cultural Art," 605-8

A&T: Tapie, from *An Other Art*, 629-30

SSM: Outsider Art, Art Informel

4/30 – Reactions to AB EX in the 1950s

A&T: Allan Kaprow, "Legacy of Jackson Pollock", handout

SSM: Neo-Dada, Combines, Assemblage, Performance Art

MAY 7 (THURSDAY) - FINAL EXAM 10:30-12:30 PM
(note date and time of exam, cannot be rescheduled)

*subject to change

A&T: Art In Theory: 1900-2000
SSM: Styles, Schools, and Movements