

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

AHIS 4213 Modern Art

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): HUMN 2563 Humanities through the Arts or AHIS 2873 Art History Survey II, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores the idea of “modern art,” incorporating both works and arts on both sides of the Atlantic, from the second half of the nineteenth century up to World War II. Examines works of art within their cultural, political, and social contexts; understanding their distinctive formal qualities is also an important aspect of the course.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Interpret artists, major works of art, and artistic styles of modern art
2. Discuss major works of art in terms of “Who, What, Where, How, & Why” in order to fully understand their importance
3. Discern artist intent(s) and how it manifested itself in the creation of art
4. Identify and use basic art historical vocabulary in discussing and writing about modern works of art (becoming visually literate)
5. Develop analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as research skills
6. Differentiate among the many philosophical foundations behind the creation of art during this period, as well as the roles played by historical, economic, and cultural forces in shaping artistic creation

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will identify and evaluate works of art, and use this information in tandem with historical, religious, economic, sociological, anthropological, political, and geographical factors in order to interpret and analyze the artwork's meaning and value to its makers/patrons/audiences.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will effectively convey their analysis and interpretation of works of art through a variety of written forms. Students will acquire and use appropriate art historical vocabulary and will be able to successfully articulate their ideas and pertinent information through class discussion and oral presentations.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical-decision making processes. Students will be introduced to ethical issues in art history, including art acquisition, sale, theft, restoration/conservation and installation, as well as art repatriation.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The Academy
- B. Invention and development of photography
- C. Realism
- D. Impressionism, Post- & Neo-Impressionism
- E. Symbolism
- F. Whistler
- G. the Nabis
- H. Modern Architecture
- I. Fauvism
- J. Cubism
- K. Germany and Austria
- L. Futurism
- M. Constructivism
- N. Dada
- O. the Armory Exhibition
- P. American Modernism & Regionalism
- Q. Bauhaus
- R. Surrealism
- S. the Harlem Renaissance
- T. "Degenerate Art"
- U. Guernica
- V. the ascendancy of New York as the art capital of the world