

Sul Ross State University
Department of Fine Art & Communication
Contemporary Art History
(ART 3308 001, CRN 21226)

Term: Spring 2021

Instructor: Valerie Breuvar

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Office hours: Wednesdays 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (via email or text/call: 432-935-4285)

Class time & location: Wednesday 5:30-8:20 pm on Zoom (meeting ID: 242 664 0854)

Course Summary:

Contemporary Art History is a lecture class that will review key art movements, artists, and art theory from post-Impressionism (1890s) to the early 21st century.

This class will survey painting, sculpture, and other art forms, mainly in the Western World.

Following a rough chronological order, the course will study the cultural and historical contexts, and many artistic breakthroughs that marked the key periods and movements of the last 130 years, from the origins of modernism and abstract art to the artistic and cultural effects of neo-liberalism and globalization. Throughout the semester, a particular emphasis will be given to the study of artists' writings, in order to understand how artists have articulated their ideas and own art-making processes.

This course will include lectures using power point presentations, as well as student presentations and critical discussion thereof. There will be weekly reading assignments.

Course reading

The following title is needed for the course. An extensive and seminal anthology of writings on art since 1900, it includes essays by art historians, artists, and other cultural theorists. It is an essential tool and source for anyone interested in understanding 20th century art. It is available second hand or new on the internet, and it is required that you obtain or secure access to it throughout the semester, as weekly assignments will require you to read and study from it starting on the first class.

Charles Harrison, Paul Wood (eds.). *Art in Theory 1900-2000 An Anthology of Changing Ideas*. New Edition, Oxford: Blackwell, 2003

It is also available at the Sul Ross Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a general knowledge of all major western art historical periods of the past.
 - A. Display the ability to meet Texas Art History objectives: (TASA standards)
 - i. An ability to identify geographic centers, time periods and stylistic characteristics of major art movements.

- ii. An ability to recognize individual styles of major artists and an understanding of the technical procedures for work in a variety of media.
- iii. An understanding of the impact of individuals, historical events and religious and philosophical concepts on art making in various periods.
- B. Demonstrate proficiency in discipline-specific writing.
 - i. An ability to follow the correct writing style manual and utilize art historical terminology
 - ii. Write a good thesis statement and follow it with a defined argument and closing statement.

Course Objectives

- to gain a knowledge and understanding of the major periods, movements, artists, and ideas of the period covered by the course;
- to be able to identify the style, period, technique of artworks from the period covered by the course
- to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between art production and the specific historical, social, economic, ideological, or cultural situations and events of the period covered by the course;
- to be able to articulate a formal analysis of an artwork;
- to understand and use appropriate art historical terminology
- to demonstrate an ability to process and reconcile all of the above through writing skills and scientific methods that can also be applicable to other fields

Grading scale

Attendance and participation during class: 10 points
 Weekly assignments: 30 points (3 points per assignment x 10)
 Presentation to class, 30 points
 Final assignment, 30 points

90-100%	A (Excellent)
80-89%	B (Good)
70-79%	C (Fair)
60-69%	D (Poor)
59% or lower	F (Failure)

Class assignments

Participation – 10 points:

Your participation will be graded throughout the semester based on your attention and level of participation. You are expected to demonstrate interest in the material presented by taking extensive notes, answering questions from the instructor, asking questions or initiating relevant conversation about the material.

Weekly assignments – 30 points:

A written assignment will be due at the beginning of every class starting week 3 and except for last class, based on the reading for the week (see the class and assignments schedule). 12 assignments

will be offered in all, at least 10 will be due. You can skip 2 of them during the semester if you need to, but it is strongly recommended you turn in all 12 to maximize your grade potential. Assignments should be typed, about 300 words long, & include a bibliography and possibly images. You will be penalized for every assignment turned in late (after the class). If you are absent, make sure you send me your paper via email before the beginning of the class.

Each paper will be graded 3 points: 1 point for the format & style of the paper (looking at how concise, structured, and articulated your answer is), 1 point if the answer is correct, 1 point for spelling, grammar, and following appropriate writing standards. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will immediately result in a F grade for the semester. If you have any question regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me!**

Presentation to the class – 30 points:

Each student will prepare a presentation on a work or body of work and present it to the class at a set date according to schedule. Presentations need to be carefully crafted, about 20 minutes long and include slides accompanied by your oral presentation to the class (preferably spoken, not read).

Your presentation should include many images. You should also prepare a printed outline and bibliography, and provide it to students and instructor.

After each presentation there will be a period for questions and comments from students and instructor.

Final assignment – 30 points:

A final assignment will be due at the end of the semester. It should be at least 1,500 words long, include an opening and closing statements and multi-part and structured argumentation. It will need to be researched independently, carefully crafted and articulated, include images and a bibliography. You will be expected to use the content, material, and terminology used and learned in class, as well as make references to the readings and other sources when appropriate.

General Course Policies

- Attendance and showing up to class with a willingness to learn is a requirement. In case of an absence, you are expected to warn the instructor by email in advance of the class, explaining the reason of your absence. If you do not do so, you will be penalized and lose 2 points of your overall grade per unexcused absence. **No more than 2 absences throughout the semester will be tolerated, whether excused or unexcused.** If you are absent 3 or more classes, you will immediately get an I grade (Incomplete) for the semester.
- Due to the Covid pandemic, students are required to wear a face mask at all times while on campus (interior and exterior)
- Although the class will take place via zoom, proper class attire and behavior is expected of every student: please wear normal street clothes, sit at a desk (no slouching or laying down), use headphones if possible, be in a properly-lit room with no background noise or distraction, have a notepad and pencil ready, take extensive notes.
- Zoom-specific policies: please use a tablet or computer to join the zoom meeting (no cell phone), have your camera always on & microphone off (except when speaking)
- Students are expected to be ready to learn, have a respectful and positive attitude toward the class and each other, be attentive and inquisitive. Attendance and participation are key, and thoughtful questions and comments are therefore strongly encouraged. Should your behavior

or attitude be deemed inappropriate, you may be asked to drop this class at instructor's discretion.

- Students are expected to take their learning in their own hands, be curious and eager to learn, and expand their knowledge conducting personal research (always favor research using printed materials rather before using the internet)
- Students are expected to take notes during class, either on a laptop or notepad.
- Students are expected to join the zoom meeting at least a couple of minutes before the beginning of each class. Repeated tardiness will be penalized.
- There will be a 15 minutes break in the middle of the class. Students are expected back on zoom promptly after 15 minutes.
- Drinks and snacks are allowed and should be consumed with discretion. Food other than snacks are not allowed during class (use the class break for more consistent food consumption).
- For every absence, whether excused or unexcused, student will be expected to catch up on the missed class and obtain notes from a fellow students and/or research the subjects discussed, ask the instructor for make-up material.
- Each student will be required to prepare and present one 20 minutes presentation to the class (subject and schedule to be decided during first or second class).

SRSU Library Services

The Sul Ross Library offers free resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

SRSU Disability Services

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is PO Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832.

Class schedule

Week 1 – January 13

Presentation & syllabus review & assignment of presentations

An Introduction to Modernism

Week 2 – January 20:

1900's: Fauvism & German Expressionism (Die Brucke & Der Blaue Reiter)

Week 3 – January 27:

1910's: Cubism & Futurism

Week 4 – February 3:

The birth of abstraction (Kandinsky, Mondrian & Malevich/Suprematism)

Week 5 – February 10:

Toward a new modernity (Bauhaus, De Stijl, Constructivism, modernist architecture)

Week 6 – February 17:

The World Wars and the absurd (New Objectivity, Dada & Surrealism)

Week 7 – February 24:

How New York Stole the Idea of Modern Art: The genesis of Abstract Expressionism

Week 8 - March 3:

Post-war existentialisms (Cobra, Art Informel, Art Brut, Gutai, Giacometti, Francis Bacon, etc.)

March 8-12: Spring break, no class

Week 9 – March 17:

Pop! The emergence of new icons (Neo-Dada, Pop Art, Nouveau Realisme, Hyperrealism)

Week 10 – March 24:

Specific Objects, Specific Places (Post-Painterly Abstraction, Minimalism, post-Minimalism, Earth Art)

Week 11 – March 31:

The Dematerialization of Art (Conceptual art, Arte Povera, Supports-Surfaces, Neo-concrete)

Week 12 – April 7:

New Medias, New Art (performance, video art, installation, Fluxus, kinetic art)

Week 13 – April 14:

An Introduction to Post-Modernism

Week 14 – April 21:

Art in a globalized world

Week 15 – April 28:

Recap