

## Art 180 Modern Art History

Joseph Hoh

Office: Young 100

Voice mail: 370-3456

E-mail: hoh@camosun.bc.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1- 3 p.m.

### Course Description

This course explores Western art and architecture beginning c. 1750 and moving chronologically to contemporary art and architecture in the 1990s. As it is not possible to cover all countries, periods, artists, and artistic mediums, a select few areas and artists will be explored. This investigation would consider and discuss the meaning and function of art according to the specific society and culture, which produced the art. Styles and artistic techniques would also be examined.

### Course requirements

Midterm	Mid-October	30%
Essay/art project	late November	30%
Presentations	end of every month	10%
Final	end of term	30%

**Evaluation:** (includes learning activities, assignments and evaluation methods/systems)

Each student will be expected to complete the assignments set by the instructor, and to follow directives that illustrates increased skill and understanding as the course progresses. Students must submit their work within the predetermined time limitations to be considered for evaluation and are required to attend and contribute at group discussions. Class attendance and participation is essential.

### Exams

Midterm and final examinations are based on a combination of lecture notes and material from assigned readings. The format of the exams can include definitions, diagrams, and/or short answer questions; slide identifications with specific questions; essay length questions.

If you miss an exam due to illness or extenuating circumstances, notify the instructor immediately (voice mail and e-mail are acceptable). Written medical certification must be produced within three days of the missed exam before alternate testing will be arranged; otherwise a grade of 0 will be issued for that exam. The make up exam will then be scheduled as quickly as possible within a week. Make up exams are completely essay based and usually consist of four different essays, each approximately eight to ten paragraphs long; the questions may or may not reflect the reviews done in class.

### Essay

**Essay with art project option.** This is an academic exploration of an art historical topic or a specific piece of art. You are encouraged to create your own essay topic based on your interests or on a piece of art or architecture you have seen in your travels. If you are unable to generate your own topic you may certainly discuss this with me. The essay topics *must* fall within the cultures and time periods we cover in this course.

**All topics and art projects must be approved before commencing your research and art making. Give me in writing a synopsis of what you hope to do on the Assignment Cover Sheet. Include this same Assignment Cover Sheet with your submitted essay.**

The **essay-only paper (Option 1):** research and write a four to five page (2000-2500 words of essay text) essay. Use single spacing with a clear *serif* typeface in 10 point (this typeface is Garamond, in use since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is a wonderful typeface when you compare it to Times New Roman). I will not mark hand written papers. Do not forget to include your name, and staple your essay pages together.

**Shorter essay with art-project paper (Option 2):** research and write a four-page paper (2000 words of essay text), single spaced, with a clear *serif* typeface in 10 point, and make a substantial art piece. The art-project *must* highlight a key concept of your paper. The idea must be approved *before* you begin creating. The art-project itself is not marked but it must be a well-considered project. We will have a “show and tell” with art projects in class the day essays are due. Again, I will not mark hand written papers. Do not forget to include your name, and staple your essay pages together.

### Essay expectations

- The essay must contextualize your topic within the society/culture which created the art. For example: if you wish to discuss the scale of Constantine’s portraits as a factor in conveying the legitimacy of his political power, your essay would examine the context behind Constantine’s need to convey power, as well as examining a specific piece; you would describe the piece; analyze and discuss from various points-of-view how these affect the perception of Constantine; and how viewer would interpret the piece
- Your topic is well researched and information comes from a variety of strong academic sources. Do not use web info. It is very likely that you will also use the UVic main (McPherson) library in addition to the College library.
- The topic is discussed and presented in a logical, coherent, and clear manner.
- The essay must use the proper format for a research paper. This is the “packaging and presentation” of your essay
- Source material must be cited. Use footnotes. There must be a bibliography at the end of the essay. Essays without footnotes and a bibliography will receive a failing grade. Not citing your sources in your essays is a form of plagiarism and therefore cannot receive a passing grade. Consult your style manual about when and how to cite your sources if you are unsure.
- You are highly encouraged to use a tutor or editor to proof and edit your paper. Resources are available at the Learning Skills Centre.
- Essays must be given to me in person. Remember that I am not always around in the office, so make all effort to hand in papers during assigned times.
- Late essays will be penalized 3% per weekday from the essay grade. Assignments will not be accepted after seven days from the due date unless prior arrangements have been made.

### Presentations

Small research topics are assigned weekly and you then present these research units in class in rotation. These presentations take no more than five minutes. Each assignment is worth 1% of your term mark. You will need to have these typed and ready to hand in each week. These assignments are small and do not require a lot of research but they are designed to help you make connections to other disciplines; and again you will have to cite sources. No late assignment will be accepted without a doctor’s note.

In these research topics I am looking for kernels of insight or connections that you may see regarding the society/culture that we would be covering in that particular week. These are then typed and printed to hand in after your presentations. I am looking for one paragraph or a series of five points. For example: in 1897 Gustave Klimpt becomes the first president of the *Sezessionstil*. Rejecting traditional guilds and conservatism, the *Sezessionstil* usher into Austria a progressive mentality that embraces industrialization and champions art as social engineering. Elsewhere in England, J.J Thompson discovers the electron but Lord Kelvin announces boldly that “radio has no future.” ...etc.

### Required texts

*History of Modern Art* by H.H. Arnason et al., 4<sup>th</sup> edition

A writer’s style manual like Diana Hacker’s *A Canadian Pocket Style Manual*

Reserve material at the Camosun Library

***Dictionary of Art***, Jane Turner, ed. The essential reference for art history in the reference section. This is a logical place to start looking for information for your research.

***Shock of the New***, Robert Hughes. A very accessible video series by BBC and Time-Life Television

Other useful references

***A Short Guide to Writing about Art*** by Sylvan Barnet. Little, Brown and Company, 1985)

***Art History*** by Stokstad. (Prentice Hall, 2002)

***Art through the Ages*** by Gardner

***Mainstreams of Modern Art***. Canaday, John. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1961

## Lecture schedule

*Subject to change without notice*

1. Introduction to course
2. Neoclassicism
3. Romanticism
4. Realism
5. Early photography
6. Impressionism
7. Post-impressionism; Symbolists
8. Art Nouveau
9. Expressionism
10. Review and sample slide quiz
11. Midterm exam
12. Mandatory library orientation. Last day for essay topics
13. Architecture 1860-1960
14. Cubism
15. Futurism
16. Suprematism, Destijl
17. Dada
18. Surrealism
19. Abstract Expressionism.
20. Pop Art
21. 1970s
22. 1980s. Essay and art projects due
23. 1990s
24. Architecture 1960-1990s; Public Art
25. Film
26. Slide review and exam essays discussion
27. Slide review and "hint day"
28. Final exam

\* Much thanks to Nancy Yakimoski for her help in this outline.