ARH 4450/6917  
Early 20th Century Art  
University of Florida  
Spring 2015

Lectures in FAC 201 Monday Period 11 and Wednesday, Periods 10-11

Professor Joyce Tsai  
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Office FAC 121

Office Hours: Wednesday from 2-4pm

Course Description:

What is art? Why should it matter? These two questions would be posed with particular intensity in the first half of the twentieth century, a period marked by profound technological, economic, social, and political transformations. Was art to serve as an agent of transformation, made by artists to prepare the ground for a new better future? Or should it serve to bridge over-civilized world with a lost, more vital past? Was art to serve a political agenda? Should it and could it remain somehow autonomous? This course examines how American and European artists responded to the challenges of war, revolution, and modernization in their art.

Objectives of this course:

This course expects students to become familiar both with artworks discussed in class as well as the texts introduced. You are responsible for knowing artists and dates as well as the contexts – material, theoretical, and historical – out of which specific works arise. The course seeks to help students develop the critical language to write in historically and formally grounded ways about modern art.

Course Requirements

1. Attend Class
2. Do Assigned Readings
3. Participate
4. Submit weekly reading responses
5. Take in-class mid-term exam and end of term test
6. Participate in Group Research Project
7. Conduct research for your written contribution to the group project
8. Provide constructive peer reviews on group projects
9. Memorize slide lists and take 2 in-class pop quizzes
Description of Course Components

Readings:
Please make sure to check lss.at.ufl.edu on a weekly basis and log into sakai. Assigned readings will be announced and posted every week at lss.at.ufl.edu. You are expected to bring all readings to class and be prepared to engage with class discussion.

Slide lists:
Each Thursday, a compiled list of slides from the past week with artist, title, and date will be made. Students are responsible for memorizing the slides and knowing from readings and lectures the relevance of each artwork included in the list.

Graded Components:

10% Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to attend and participate in the class meetings. Please consult the following website for full official attendance policies.
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog1011/policies/regulationattendance.html

10% Weekly Reading Responses:
Each week, reading responses are due at 6pm Sunday night on the discussion page for the course. The responses should be no longer than 150 words and should engage an aspect of the readings that resonated with you. The response can also be formulated as a question, as commentary, or as an informed challenge to the readings assigned. The response constitutes part of your grade. This is assessed by a check/minus system – check if you have fulfilled the assignment, minus if you fail to send in a response or otherwise do not fulfill the assignment.

10% Pop quiz:
Two pop quizzes will be administered consisting of slide identifications during the course of the semester. There are no make-up quizzes. Missed quizzes due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.

15% Mid-Term
The Mid-Term is cumulative and encompasses all aspects of readings and lectures as well as a selection of slides provided to students a week prior to each exam. The exam will include slide identifications, a multiple-choice section, and essay questions.

15% End of Term Test
The End of Term Test is cumulative and encompasses all aspects of readings and lectures since the Mid-Term as well as a selection of slides provided to students a week prior to each exam. The exam will include slide identifications, a multiple-choice section, and essay questions.
Group Research Project
As a major part of your final grade, you will be assigned to a group and will collectively plan an online exhibition on a particular artistic movement or project from the second half of the twentieth century. The theme that structures your exhibition is something that you can freely select as a group but must be approved by me. It can be historically or chronologically organized or arranged according to interrelated topics, artists, or works.

A detailed timeline and group assignments will be made in the third week of classes.

The assignment involves the following graded component:

15% of your final grade for the course will depend upon your own individual contribution to the project.

15% of your final grade for the course will depend upon the final project result.

10% of your final grade for the course will depend upon the peer reviews you and your group produce.

Academic Honesty Policy:

The university's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links:

Academic Honesty: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty
Honor Code: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php
Student Conduct: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php

Students with disabilities
I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. At the same time, anyone requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide you with the necessary documentation, which you must then provide to me when requesting accommodation.

University Counseling Services
Contact information:
Counseling Center
Address:
3190 Radio Rd.
P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2662
Phone: 352-392-1575  
Web: www.counsel.ufl.edu

Grading:
10%  Reading Responses  
10%  Attendance/Participation  
10%  Pop quizzes  
15%  Midterm  
15%  End of Term Test  
15%  Individual Contribution to the Group Final Research Project  
15%  Group Final Research Project  
10%  Peer Reviews

Preliminary Schedule of Topics  
NB: Always consult Sakai for Assigned Readings and Changes to the Syllabus

Jan 7  Overview and Introduction

Jan 12/ W2  Seeing and Feeling  
M: After Impressionism  
W: Fauvism

Jan 19/ W3  Art as Spiritual Renewal  
M: No class MLK day  
W: German Expressionism  
Group Assignment Instructions will be distributed

Jan 26/ W4  Cubism  
M: Picasso and Braque  
W: Collage

Feb 2/ W5  Art, War, and Starting Anew  
M: Futurism  
W: Suprematism

Feb 9 / W6  Art and Revolution  
M: Dada  
W: No Class -- Group Research Meetings

Feb 16 / W7  Constructing the Future  
M: Russian Constructivism  
W: International Constructivism

Feb 23/ W8  Review for Mid-Term Exam  
M: Review Session  
W: Mid-Term Exam
Spring Break

Mar 9/ W9  Training the Senses
M: Bauhaus Preliminary Course
W: Bauhaus Workshops

Mar 16/W10  Realism and Social Critique
M: New Objectivity in Painting
W: New Objectivity in Photography

Mar 23/W11  Surrealism and Politics
M: Andre Breton
W: Surrealism in Exile

Mar 30/ W12  Official Art under Hitler and Stalin
M: Degenerate Art
W: Socialist Realism

Apr 6/W13  What is American Art?
M: Art, Politics, and the Great Depression
W: Regionalism and Modernism

Apr 13/W14  Abstract Expressionism
M: Action Painting
W: Modernist Painting

Apr 20/W15  Wrap up and final exam review
M: Review and wrap up
W: End of Term Exam

Final Project Due April 27