

Modernism and Contemporary Art

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This course studies those trends in twentieth-century art, collectively known as Modernism, examining how each challenged the artistic ideas of earlier centuries. By directly encountering British, European and American examples in London's magnificent galleries can come to an understanding of the diverse nature of Modernism and the profundity of its influence. An in-depth study of contemporary British artists, art patronage and the role of galleries in shaping public taste will be integral to the course, illustrated by the award every autumn of the Turner Prize for contemporary art.

The object of this course is to provide an introduction to 20th century Modernism by studying the examples of British, Western European and American art that can be viewed at first hand in London. The course will also address the ideas of Postmodernism by examining the contemporary London art scene. Although emphasis will be placed on the trends to be found in the "isms" and "ists" of Modernism and the general ideas of Postmodernism, it is also expected that students will be able to make close studies of individual artists. The role of patrons, museums and galleries and canons of art will be an ongoing topic.

An introductory lesson and gallery visit will focus on the ideas of the late 19th century and earlier, which were to be challenged after 1900 by the ideas of Modernism.

One session a week will be spent in class preparing for the field trips which will be a further two hour session at London's museums and galleries.

METHODOLOGY:

One third of the teaching time will be spent in class where a variety of methods- lectures, slides, discussions will provide the background needed to understand the forthcoming gallery visit.

The remaining two thirds will be taught in the galleries and museums and will involve student research with the help of worksheets, student presentations and tutor led lectures in front of the art objects. Students will keep a weekly art journal where they explore issues relating to the visits.

Since London is a major world art centre and has many more galleries than we can visit in a semester, the students will be advised about other galleries they can visit in their own time. These recommendations will be a mix of public and private institutions.

READING:

Lynton, N "The Story of Modern Art", Phaidon.

Hughes, R "The Shock of the New", Thames and Hudson

Franscina, F & Harrison, C "Modern Art and Modernism A Critical Anthology", Paul Chapman Publishing

Chipp, HB "Theories of Modern Art. A Source book for Artists & Critics", University of California Press
Harrison, G, Frascina, F and Perry, G "Primitivism, Cubism, Abstraction – The Early Twentieth Century", Yale & Open University Press
Stangos, N "Concepts of Modern Art from Fauvism to Postmodernism", Thames and Hudson
Dube, W-D, "The Expressionists", Thames and Hudson
Bradley
Rubin, W.S, "Dada and Surrealist Art", Thames and Hudson
Krauss, R, "Passages in Modern Sculpture", Thames and Hudson
Chadwick, W "Women, Art and Society" Thames and Hudson
Parker, R & Pollock, G "Old Mistresses Women, Art and Ideology", Harper Collins
Perry, G & Cunningham, C " Academies, Museums and Canons of Art", Yale The Open University
McClellan, A "Art and its Publics Museum Studies at the Millennium", Blackwell
Kent, S "Shark Infested Waters- The Saatchi Collection of British Art in the 90s", Zwemmer
Rogers, O (Ed), "Art and Architecture in London", a collection of articles and essays.

Please note that the reading list may change when the weekly syllabus is designed. Changes to the proposed schedule may occur depending on exhibitions available in London.

ASSESSMENT:

2 Formal Essays	40%
Mid-term Test	10%
Journals	20%
Presentations & Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%

LONDON GALLERIES:

The following galleries will be visited:

The National Gallery
The Courtauld Institute
Tate Modern
Tate Britain
Saatchi Gallery

The following may be visited depending on the exhibitions available:

The Royal Academy
The V&A
The Hayward
The Whitechapel
The Serpentine

The Barbican
Imperial War Museum
Cork Street Galleries
Dulwich Picture Gallery
McHardy Sculpture Company
Museum of installation Art