Syllabus Winter 2008
Course: Art 145
History of Contemporary Art
Professor: Ann Johnston – Schuster

Time: Mon, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1-2.05p
Classroom: C252
Voice Mail: 840-8485
Office: Room No. C290P
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 4:30-5:45p

Additional hours by appointment: MW 5:45-7:00p TF 11:30-12:45
During office hours I may be found in my office C290P or in the Art classroom C170.

I will access voice mail during office hours.
*** Watch for any posted change of office hours.

Course Description

A concise history of contemporary painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, photography, and mixed media from modern foundations through post-modern styles and related issues.

Course Content and Requirements

This course provides an in-depth study of the pre history and stylistic periods of Modern Art History. The academic focus of the course is the exploration of the relationship between the “academy” and the avant-garde movements, and the dialogue between traditional art historical methodology and modern theoretical art criticism. Students will be required to make a differentiation between their own personal stylistic preferences and recognize the true meaning and significance that a work of art held in its original context. The work of many contemporary artists is designed to challenge the viewer. Students will learn how to make objective statements and reasoned analytical observations about art in its historical context. The search to understand our shared history brings us the wisdom to examine our beliefs in a larger context. Key works of art and the cultures which produced them are introduced and considered according to the following historical and stylistic divisions: Realism, Impressionism, Post Impressionism, Art Nouveau, Fauvism, German Expressionism, Cubism, De Stijl, Suprematism, Futurism, Dada, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, NYC and West Coast Superrealism, Minimalism, Conceptual art and Earthworks.


Instructional Methods

The material presented will be primarily in lecture format with some discussion. Students will view, discuss, contrast and interpret works of art from projected slides and overhead visuals. (Usually in pairs for comparison) Class discussions, art analyses, group collaborations, quizzes, and examinations will enhance your understanding of relevant works and topics in contemporary
visual culture. Your success in this course will be directly proportional to your “ownership” of your responsibility to learn course’s material.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION ARE OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE!

Assignments and Exams

There will be two exams during the course. Exams are not cumulative. Quizzes will be given at the end of each chapter. There will be six quizzes in total and your lowest score will be dropped. Students will only be tested on images that are both discussed in lectures and are available in the textbook. Exam, quizzes, and assignments may only be made-up or turned in after deadline if you have a legitimate documented medical or family emergency.

Additional Requirements

1. 3-ring binder for lecture notes, course syllabus and calendar, chapter outlines, study guides, slide list and vocabulary lists.
2. Scantrons for exams, presentation board for group collaborations, and additional monies for Xerox reproductions.
3. All required reading and assignments must be completed on time according to the specifications of the task. The history of art is a difficult subject, the material cannot be crammed in an overnight session. Do the reading before coming to class so that you may become familiar with important names and terms. Students are strongly urged to practice the art of careful note taking. If you must be absent, you should contact a reliable classmate with requests for notes.
4. All relevant Pierce College policies pertaining to such matters as plagiarism, attendance, behavior, grading, etc. will apply in this course. Any discipline problems will not be tolerated and will be handled in accordance with college policies.
5. Responses and remarks during classroom discussion are to be professional, courteous, and thought inspiring.
6. There will be no cell-phones, electronic devices, food, or drink allowed in the classroom.

Course Outcomes

- Identify and apply fundamental methods of visual thinking and art criticism.
- Recognize basic variations of media in painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, photography and mixed media.
- Identify major styles and their characteristics that evolved in the modern world from the mid 19th century through the 20th century.
- Recognize the contributions of individuals and the various cross cultural influences and characteristics of the art of the mid 19th century through the 20th century.
Grading Format

1. Exams and Quizzes 45%
2. Attendance and Participation 20%
3. Assignment (Art Analysis Compare and Contrast) 20%
4. Group Presentation (Text Chapter Summary) 15%

To successfully complete this course, the student must attend each class, do all scheduled reading, participate in discussions, take an active part in group collaboration, and complete ALL required assignments.

Approve Quarterly Academic Adjustments

Students with disabilities who believe they may need academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements are encouraged to register with the Access and Disability Services (ADS) Office, Room A-115 in the Administration Building. For an appointment with the ADS Coordinator please call 253-840-8335 or 253-864-3301. Students requesting accommodations must obtain the “Approved Quarterly Academic Adjustments, Auxiliary Aids or Services” (green) form from ADS.

Plagiarism Policy and Code of Conduct

Students will conduct themselves as responsible members of the College community: will obey the law and comply with rules and regulations and maintain high standards of integrity and honesty. If you use another person’s ideas, words, music, artwork, computations, models, etc., in such a manner as to imply that the thing used was your own, you may face disciplinary actions as stated in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy/Code of Conduct.

Attendance Policy

Timely and regular attendance is mandatory to your success in this class! Leaving early will be marked as a missed class. Your enrollment in this course is an agreement to the full class time. Do not make other appointments during class time. Tardiness will also affect your grade. No more than two absences are allowed per quarter without penalty. More than two absences will lower your grade. It is up to each student to decide whether or not to save these absences for serious events (illness, automotive failure, etc.).

*In case of extenuating circumstances (family-medical emergencies) notify the instructor as soon as possible. Documentation will be required.
*In the event of an absence, you are responsible for finding out what you missed and keeping up with the assignments. The instructor will not be able to repeat the lecture. Seek this information form a classmate by exchanging phone numbers.