



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# ART 215 Art and Visual Culture: Late 19th Century to World War II Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course provides a comprehensive exploration of art and visual culture from the late 19th century to the conclusion of World War II in Europe and North America. Focused on the period spanning from 1890 to 1945, the course examines the development of modern art movements and visual culture against the backdrop of capitalist expansion, gender issues, social class dynamics, and shifting social consciousness. Through analysis of key artworks, critical texts, and historical contexts, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the role of art in reflecting and shaping cultural identities, ideologies, and experiences during this transformative period.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Examine the impact of capitalist expansion on the production, distribution, and reception of art and visual culture during this period;
2. Explore representations of gender in art and visual culture, and their intersection with issues of identity, power, and social norms;
3. Investigate the influence of social class dynamics on artistic production, patronage, and reception;
4. Analyze the ways in which art and visual culture reflected and influenced shifting social consciousness and political ideologies;
5. Develop critical thinking skills through the interpretation and evaluation of artworks and visual culture;
6. Enhance visual literacy and communication skills through discussions,



presentations, and written assignments;

7. Deepen understanding of visual arts culture and visual language, including formal elements, symbolism, and aesthetics.

## **PREREQUISITES**

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None.

## **GRADING**

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	35 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

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### **Required Texts:**

1. Hal Foster, Rosalind Krauss, *Art Since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism and Postmodernism*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2004, Thames & Hudson.
2. Herschel B. Chipp, *Theories of Modern Art: A Source Book by Artists and Critics*, 1992, University of California Press.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None



## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Introduction to Late 19th Century Art and Visual Culture Topic 2: Symbolism: Dreams, Myths, and Fantasies Topic 3: Art Nouveau: Nature, Curves, and Decorative Arts Topic 4: Post-Impressionism: Color, Form, and Expression <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment #1
Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Fauvism: Wild Colors and Emotional Expression Topic 6: Cubism: Fragmentation, Multiplicity, and Analytical Perspective Topic 7: Expressionism: Emotion, Distortion, and Subjectivity Topic 8: Futurism: Speed, Technology, and Dynamic Forms <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz #1
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Dadaism: Anti-Art and Nihilistic Expression Topic 10: Surrealism: Dreams, Desires, and the Unconscious Mind Topic 11: American Regionalism: Depicting Everyday Life and Landscapes Topic 12: Mexican Muralism: Art as Social and Political Activism <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Harlem Renaissance: African-American Art and Identity Topic 14: Precisionism: Industrial America in Art Topic 15: Social Realism: Depicting Social Issues and Injustice Topic 16: Abstract Expressionism: Gesture, Action, and the Sublime <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz #2
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: American Modernism: Urban Scenes and Cultural Identity Topic 18: Mexican Modernism: Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and National Identity Topic 19: War and Art: Responses to World War I and World War II Topic 20: Gender and Identity in Modern Art <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment #2



Module 6	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 21: Social Class and Cultural Consumption Topic 22: Modern Art Criticism and Visual Culture Studies Topic 23: Capitalism and the Art Market Topic 24: Visual Language: Form, Color, Composition, and Symbolism</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam</p>
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## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.

2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.

3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.

5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.



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## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.