



蘇州大學
Soochow University

ART 218 Art and Visual Culture: 1945 to the Present

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an in-depth exploration of art and visual culture from the end of World War II to the present day. It will examine key movements such as Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Minimalism, and Conceptual Art, while also looking at the impact of video installations, performance art, Land Art, appropriation, and institutional critique on contemporary artistic practice. The course will emphasize the interplay between art, politics, society, and technology, exploring how artists have responded creatively to global events, cultural shifts, and changes in media.

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

1. Identify and discuss major post-WWII art movements and their significance;
2. Analyze artworks within their historical, social, and cultural contexts;
3. Understand the principles and practices of abstraction, pop, minimalism, and conceptual art;
4. Evaluate the role of video and performance in expanding the boundaries of art;
5. Critically engage with the concepts of site-specificity, appropriation, and institutional critique;
6. Discuss the relationship between art and technology, especially within digital and networked environments;
7. Demonstrate research skills through the use of primary and secondary sources;
8. Develop a nuanced perspective on current trends and future directions in art and visual culture.



PREREQUISITES

None.

GRADING

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

ITEM	POINTS
2 Assignments	10 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
2 Writing Reports	20 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	25 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

Required Texts:

1. Hans Belting, Andrea Buddensieg, Peter Weibel, *The Global Contemporary and the Rise of New Art Worlds*, 2013, MIT Press.
2. Jonathan David Fineberg, *Art Since 1940*, Prentice Hall, 1995.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to Post-WWII Art: A New World Order Topic 2: Abstract Expressionism: Emotional Realism in Postwar America Topic 3: Pop Art and the Critique of Mass Culture Topic 4: Minimalism and the Pursuit of Essential Form</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment #1</p>
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Conceptual Art: Ideas as the Main Event Topic 6: Happenings and Performance Art: Art in Action Topic 7: Postmodernism: Pluralism and Irony in Art Topic 8: Arte Povera: Redefining Materiality</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #1</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Land Art: Connection to Nature and Site-Specificity Topic 10: Feminist Art Movements: Challenging Patriarchal Narratives Topic 11: Body Art and Media: The Body as Canvas Topic 12: Appropriation Art: Recontextualizing Images and Ideas</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment #2 Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Photography and Its Expanded Field: From Document to Concept Topic 14: Art and Technology: Interactive Installations and Digital Art Topic 15: Graffiti and Street Art: Public Space as Canvas Topic 16: Postcolonial Art: Reframing Cultural Narratives</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #2</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Art and Identity: Queer Art, Black Lives Matter, and Other Social Movements Topic 18: Neo-Expressionism and the Return of the Figure Topic 19: Re-Envisioning Painting: Euramerican and Global Perspectives Topic 20: Sculpture and Objecthood: From Traditional to Non-Traditional Forms</p> <p>Assessments: Writing Report #1</p>



Module 6	<p>Topics: Topic 21: Art and Environmentalism: Eco-Art and Sustainability Topic 22: Hyperreality and Simulation: Art in the Age of Digital Duplication Topic 23: Re-Materialization: New Materialism in Contemporary Art Practices Topic 24: Biennials and Triennials: The Globalization of Art Exhibitions</p> <p>Assessments: Writing Report #2</p>
Module 7	<p>Topics: Topic 25: Art in the 21st Century: Trajectories and Possibilities Topic 26: Video Installations: Time-Based Media in Contemporary Art Topic 27: Behavior Art: Performance and Participation Topic 28: Institutional Critique: Questioning the Museum and Art World Structures</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p>

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.



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- 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.

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.