



Nanchang University
ART14: Introduction to Modern Art
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

Credit: 4

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This course focuses on the development of art from 1945. Students learn works of art and their cultural background, with the goal of recognizing, understanding, and discussing a variety of art forms in their broader contexts. Topics include: issues of identity, the avant-garde, the art object and the object of art, institutions and challenges to them, and so on.

Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Required Textbook

Textbook:

1. *(HMA) History of Modern*, by Arnason; Publisher: Pearson, Edition: 6, Year Published: 2010
2. *(WAA) Writing about Art*, by Sayre, Publisher: Pearson, Edition: 6, Year Published: 2009

Extra readings will be distributed via email.

Grading

•Participation	20%
•Paper	20%
•Midterm	30%
•Final	30%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	



Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1

Topic: Introduction

Reading: HMA, Ch. 1

Class 2

Topic: Realism and impressionism

HMA, Ch. 2

Class 3

Topic: Realism and impressionism (Cont.)

HMA, Ch. 2

Class 4

Topic: Post-impressionism

Reading: HMA, Ch. 3

Class 5

Topic: Fauvism and expressionism

Reading: HMA, Ch. 5, 6, 7

Class 6

Topic: Cubism

Reading: 8, 10, 12

Class 7

Topic: Dada

Reading: Ch. 11

Class 8

Topic: Neoplasticism and Bauhaus

Reading: HMA, Ch. 13, 14

Class 9

Topic: Surrealism

Reading: HMA, Ch. 15



Class 10

Topic: Architecture from 1850's to present

Reading: HMA, Ch. 4, 9, 21

Class 11

Topic: Architecture from 1850's to present (Cont.)

Reading: HMA, Ch. 4, 9, 21

Class 12

Review for Midterm

Class 13

Midterm Exam

Class 14

Topic: Literature from 1800 to present

Reading: Selections from Baudelaire, Coleridge, Dostoevsky, Oscar Wilde, TS Eliot, Dylan Thomas, William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg, Ben Lerner, Michael Palmer

Class 15

Topic: Dance from 1890's to present (Isadora Duncan, Marie Wigman, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Pina Bausch, Johann Kresnik, Sasha Walz, Batsheva)

Reading: Selections from Duncan and Graham

Class 16

Topic: Intellectual history from Medieval to present (Copernican model, Enlightenment optimism, Freud, Nietzsche, Marx, positivism)

Reading: Lewis (1964), Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8

Class 17

Topic: American art before WWII

Reading: HMA, Ch. 16, WAA, Ch. 1

Class 18

Topic: Abstract expressionism

Reading: HMA, Ch. 17, WAA Ch. 2

Class 19

Short paper due

Class 20

Topic: Art in postwar Europe

Reading: HMA, Ch. 18, WAA, Ch. 3.



Class 21

Topics: Pop art and Nouveau Realisme and Abstraction in the '1960's

Reading: HMA, Ch. 19, 20; WAA Ch. 4

Class 22

Topics: Conceptualism and activist art and Post-Minimalism

Reading: HMA, Ch. 22 and Ch. 23

Class 23

Topics: Post-modernism and Neo-expressionism and contemporary art

Reading: HMA, Ch. 24, 25 and 26

Class 24

Final Review

Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during



the class period;

— While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the 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. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.