LANGARA COLLEGE

Art History 1301
Modern Art 1880 to 1970
Spring Semester 2011

Instructor:        Bruce Hanbury
Classroom:        A136b
Office:           B019b
Art History Lab:  B020

Office Hours:     Monday:  1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. & 6:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.
                  Tuesday: 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.
                  Wednesday: 10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

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REQUIRED TEXTS:
Hughes, Robert, *Shock of the New*  
*(Please note 1st and 2nd Editions contain the same material)*  
*(Texts are available at the Langara Bookstore.)*

RECOMMENDED READING:
Hamilton, G., *19th and 20th Century Art.*
*Chipp, H., Theories of Modern Art.*
*(Available in the reference section of the Langara Library.)*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The purpose of this course is to illustrate the various mainstream directions Art has taken to keep pace with the changing technological advancements created by the industrial revolution of the 19th Century. Modern Art has changed dramatically, introducing into Art a new aesthetic awareness. A desire for a completely new and Modern purpose that was stated beautifully by the painter Paul Klee in 1920, when he asserted that “art does not reproduce the visible, rather it makes visible;” taking us “into the land of greater insight.”

The objective of investigating various patterns of growth in 20th Century Art is to prepare students for a greater understanding of “Art”, as it applies to the changing perceptions of the inner and outer environments of the modern world. To investigate Art in the context of cognitive growth today remains a major challenge. Parallel growth in science and technology has had a profound effect on society. Indeed, this helps explain the changing need for greater individual creativity and freedom to explore new innovative and pluralistic concerns in the field of the Visual Arts. Broad themes will show how artists have reacted in a climate of rapid change, as they grapple with artistic concerns in the context of individual freedom and creativity.

Painting, Sculpture and Architecture will form the main focus of media examined throughout the course. Students will be encouraged to form their own understanding of the meaning of 20th Century Art through investigation of assigned readings, film/video analysis and classroom discussions. Robert Hughes employs various topics that will become the main focus of this course and allow greater insight into what is known today as the “Art System”. Students will be required to read the text prior to class discussions.
ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Midterm #1  30 %
Midterm #2  30 %
Attendance and Participation  10 %
Final Exam  30 %

COURSE OUTLINE


Readings: Hughes: The Mechanical Paradise

Week 2  Introduction to 20th Century Criticism, History and Aesthetic Analysis. Focus: French Cubism and Italian Futurism to Dada Artworks.

Readings: Hughes: The Mechanical Paradise

Week 3  Expressionism and Power in Art. Focus: German Expressionism, Russian Constructivism and Suprematism.

Readings: Hughes: Faces of Power

Week 4  Late 19th and Early 20th Century Landscape Artists. Focus: French Fauvism – Dufy, Matisse, Cezanne and Braque.

Readings: Hughes: Landscapes of Pleasure


Readings: Hughes: Trouble in Utopia

Week 6  Surrealists Cult of Objects and the Triumph of the Subconscious. Focus: Magritte, Giorgio de Chirico, Max Ernst, Rousseau and Dali.

Readings: Hughes: The Threshold of Liberty

Week 7  MIDTERM EXAM #1 - In Class Exam February 22nd

Chapters 1 - 5
Week 8  The “Avant-Garde” in Early European Film.
   
   Film # 1:  Dali and Bunel, “Un Chien Andalou”, 1928 (Surrealism)
   Film # 2:  Fritz Lang, “Metropolis”, 1926 (German Expressionism)

Week 9  Passion, Creativity and Non-Objective Expressionism.
   Focus: Van Gogh, Munch, Kirchner, De Kooning, Pollock, Rothko and Francis Bacon.
   Readings: Hughes: View From the Edge

   PLEASE NOTE: MIDTERM EXAM #2

Week 10  American Pop Cultural Icons in the 1960’s.
   Focus: Rauschenberg, Warhol, Rosenquist, Oldenburg and Johns.
   Readings: Hughes: Culture as Nature

Week 11  The New Realists and the Development of Inter-Media Forms in Art: Installations and Art Performances.
   Focus: Sculpture of Judd, Kienholz, Segal, Carl Andre and Joseph Beuys.

Week 12  Earth Works in Art: The Anti-Capitalistic Approach to Creating Large Scale Public Art Away from the Urban Museums.
   Focus: Smithson, Christo, Heizer and Walter de Maria.
   Readings: Hughes: The Future That Was

   PLEASE NOTE: FINAL EXAM