



ARTS 2110: Contemporary Art

2022 Spring Session	
Total Class Sessions: 25 Class Sessions Per Week: 5 Total Weeks: 5 Class Session Length (Minutes): 145 Credit Hours: 4	Instructor: Staff Classroom: TBA Office Hours: TBA Language: English

Course Description:

As an introduction to the history of modern art, this course explores contemporary art on a global scale since 1945. Particular attention will be given to the rise of Modernism in Europe, the role of artists and artistic movements in social and political change, and the relationship of contemporary artistic practice to technology, social media and visual culture. Art forms such as painting, sculpture, installation art, new media and topics on performance, art criticism, and curatorial practice will also be discussed.

Course Materials:

1. **In-class Handouts:** most readings and viewing assignments are in-class handouts.
2. **Optional Texts:**
History of Modern Art, H.H. Arnason and Elizabeth C, 7th Edition

Course Format and Requirements:

The course will meet five times weekly, during which students will go through the material principally by means of lectures and visual presentations, but also in-class discussion of crucial artists/events and assigned readings. Attendance and participation is essential for your success in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Define specialized concepts and terms that are critical to the understanding of contemporary art.
- Know major developmental periods and movements from 1945 to the present.
- Comprehend various interpretive perspectives and the complexities of categorization.
- Develop aesthetic evaluative criteria and apply them to contemporary art.
- Become familiar with contemporary artists and art works through reading of art criticism.

Attendance:

Your attendance is mandatory. You will be required to sign in at the beginning of each lecture and section.



More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

Course Assignments:

Quizzes:

Five will take place during the semester. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Exams:

3 midterm exams

Three non-cumulative in-class closed-book mid-term exams will be taken. Each exam is not cumulative. Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade.

Final exam

A closed-book final exam will be taken at the end of the session. The final exam is cumulative and worth 30% of the final grade.

Exact time and location for final will be announced in the last week of sessions.

All the exams in this class will be based on the following format:

1) Short answer questions:

You will be asked questions pertaining to subjects, issues and changes in art derived from readings on handouts.

2) Multiple choices

3) Short essay question:

You will be asked to write an essay pertaining to a specific question.

Course Assessment:

Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exams 1	20%
Midterm Exams 2	20%
Midterm Exams 3	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale (percentage):

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
98-	93-	90-	88-	83-	80-	78-	73-	70-	68-	63-	60-	<60
100	97	92	89	87	82	79	77	72	69	67	62	



Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Chengdu University of Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

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.

Course Schedule:

Class 1:

Overview/Introductions

Go over course requirements

Cubism

Class 2:

The social base of art

Avant-Garde and Kitach;

Class 3:

The Ideology of Modernism

Introduction to Modernism

Evolution of Modernism before World War II

Class 4:

Quiz 1

Modernism;

Abstract Expressionism

Class 5:

Alternatives to Modernism;

“High Modernist” theory

Class 6:

Postwar Europe, Japan, and “New Realism”;

Review for Midterm 1



Class 7:
Midterm Exam 1

Class 8:
First-Generation Feminist Art
Pattern and Decoration

Class 9:
Quiz 2
Pop Art in Britain: The Independent Group
Pop Art in the United States: “Neo-Dada” origins

Class 10:
Pop Art in the United States: “Neo-Dada” origins (Cont.)
Pop Art in the United States: Beyond NYC

Class 11:
Pop Art in the United States: Beyond NYC (Cont.)
“Post-painterly:” Abstraction in the ‘60s

Class 12:
Quiz 3
Modernism/Postmodernism:
Case studies in architectural sculpture and design

Class 13:
The Limits of Modernism: Minimalism
Review for Midterm 2

Class 14:
Midterm Exam 2

Class 15:
Post-Minimalism
Figuration and “new imagists”;

Class 16:
Architectural Sculpture and New Image Painting
Conceptualism;

Class 17:
Quiz 4
“Neo-Dada” influence in Music, Theater, Poetry, Art
The Politics of Painting



Class 18:
Activist art in the wake of the Civil Rights movement
Review for Midterm 3

Class 19:
Midterm Exam 3

Class 20:
Consumer Society and Deconstruction Art;
Appropriation

Class 21:
Neo-Expressionism and '80s abstraction;
Art World of the 1980s: East Village Art, Commodity Art

Class 22:
Quiz 5
Postmodernism;
High Art vs. Low Art: Art history and pop culture

Class 23:
Relational Aesthetics
Contemporary identities and the altermodern cosmopolitan

Class 24:
Artists of Africa and Asia;
Other Territories: 1992-200

Class 25:
Other discussion
Review for final exam

Final Exam (Cumulative): TBA