

MORAVIAN COLLEGE  
Art History Special Topics  
ART HISTORY WORKSHOP: METHODS, CRITICISM & EXHIBITION PRACTICE  
Syllabus

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Office: South Hall, Church St. Campus Hours: Mon & Wed 4-5:00 pm

What is it you want to know about a work of art? Who made it? What's it about? When and where was it made? Why was it made? Is it "good" or "bad" art? The questions that you ask, and how you go about finding the answers, lead straight to issues of methodology.

This course will survey the major art historians, the questions they asked (and the answers they proposed), from the "who" of biography and connoisseurship through the "what" of iconography to the "when, where, why" of social history, Marxism and feminism. It will also survey modern criticism in America; and consider contemporary exhibition practice.

The goal of the course is to become familiar with the development of the discipline and practice of art history and its theoretical underpinnings, both in the classroom and in exhibition.

Class format is lecture, discussion and student projects/ presentations.

REQUIRED TEXTS for purchase

- 1) W. Eugene Kleinbauer, MODERN PERSPECTIVES IN WESTERN ART HISTORY
- 2) Patricia Hills, MODERN ART IN THE USA: ISSUES AND CONTROVERSIES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY
- 3) One subscription to either ART IN AMERICA or ART NEWS or ARTFORUM
- 4) Wink & Phipps, MUSEUM GOERS GUIDE

RECOMMENDED READINGS on reserve in Reeves Library, and  
*Art News*, *Artforum*, and *The New York Times* (week-end editions)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Students must attend all classes and bring the appropriate required text to each class.
- Three assignments: either short papers (6-8pp) or projects (including oral presentation)
- A field trip to New York City (details to be announced)

Grading: 50% is determined by written work (25% for each paper); 25% by final project; and 25% by class participation and attendance.

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

### I. ART HISTORY METHODOLOGY

#### Week 1

- Introduction I : Syllabus
- Introduction II: Panofsky, MEANING IN THE VISUAL ARTS (“*Art History as a Humanistic Discipline*,” pp 1-25)

#### Week 2

- Biography
  - Vasari, LIVES OF THE ARTISTS (Giotto, Michaelangelo & 2 personal selections, with slides)
  - Lipton, Eunice, ALIAS OLYMPIA: A WOMAN’S SEARCH FOR MANET’S NOTORIOUS MODEL & HER OWN DESIRE
  - Current issue of *Art News*
- Intrinsic Perspectives I: Connoisseurship
  - Kleinbauer . . . (Offner, “GUIDO DA SIENA AND AD 1221)

#### Week 3

- Intrinsic Perspectives II: Formalism
  - Kleinbauer . . . (Woelfflin, PRINCIPLES OF ART HISTORY & postcards)
- Intrinsic Perspectives III: Iconography
  - Kleinbauer . . . (Panofsky, JAN VAN EYCK’S ‘ARNOLFINI PORTRAIT’)

#### Week 4

- Extrinsic Perspectives I: Psychology and Art/ Perception
  - Kleinbauer . . . (Gombrich, LIGHT, FORM, AND TEXTURE. . . .)
- Extrinsic Perspectives I: Psychology and Art/ Psychoanalysis
  - Kleinbauer . . . (Kris, A PSYCHOTIC ARTIST. . . .)

#### Week 5 [FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE]

- Extrinsic Perspectives II: Social and Cultural Art History/ Feminism
  - Pollock, VISION & DIFFERENCE (selections)
- TBA [Moravian Archives, Director Paul M. Peucker and Asst Director Lanie Graf Williamson]

### II. ART CRITICISM

#### Week 6

- 1940s to Mid-1950s, Hills, ch 4
- Greenberg, ART AND CULTURE (selections)
- Friday New York Times (*Weekend: Fine Arts, Leisure*)

#### Week 7

- 1955-1967, Hills, ch 5 (especially articles published in *Artforum*)
- Newman, CHALLENGING ART: ARTFORUM 1962-1974 (selections)
- Friday New York Times (*Weekend: Fine Arts, Leisure*)

Week 8: **SPRING BREAK**

Week 9

- 1968-1980, Hills, ch 6 (especially articles published in *Artforum*)
- Current issues of *Art in America* and *Art News*
- Friday New York Times (*Weekend: Fine Arts, Leisure*)

Week 10 **[SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE]**

- 1980s—1990s, Hills, ch 7 (excluding pp 423-54)
- Current issue of *October*
- Friday New York Times (*Weekend: Fine Arts, Leisure*)

III. EXHIBITION

Week 11

- The Construction of Knowledge: Museums, Art History. . . . Hills, ch 7, pp 423-32
- TRIP TO NYC** (tentative)

Week 12

- Patronage, Taste and Collecting  
Kleinbauer . . . (Hartt, *ART AND FREEDOM*. . . .)
- Trip to Payne Gallery & Kemerer Art Museum

Week 13

-EASTER BREAK

- Trip to Banana Factory, Third Street Galleries & Zollner Art Center

Week 14

- Art in Public Spaces, Hills, ch 7, 433-54
- Trip to Allentown Art Museum [Jacquie Atkins, Curator of Textiles]

Week 15 **[THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE]**

- Independent Exhibitions  
Hills, ch 1, pp 32-42 (*ARMORY SHOW, INDEPENDENTS SHOW* . . .)
- View virtual exhibitions

**Week 16: EXAM WEEK**