ARTh 2303: Twentieth Century Art I  
University of Texas at El Paso  
Fall 2014

Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays / Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:20 a.m.  
Classroom: Fox Fine Arts A458 (4th floor)

Professor: Dr. Melissa Warak  
Email: mcwarak@utep.edu  
Office Hours: M, 12:00 – 2:00; T, 2:00 – 3:00 and by appointment  
Office: Fox Fine Arts A455  
Office Phone: (915) 747-5150 (during office hours)

ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR  
Dr. Melissa Warak specializes in the relationship of music and sound to American and European art of the twentieth century. Dr. Warak is a proud Texan and a native of Houston. She earned a B.A. in English literature and art history from Vanderbilt University, an M.A. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation, titled Made to Music: Interactions of Music and Art, 1955-1969, is comprised of four case studies of the ways that visual artists from the mid-fifties to late sixties employed musical models in their work. Aside from musical and sound art, her research interests include the history of abstraction, spirituality in modern and contemporary art, science and technology in modern and contemporary art, and astronomy in art. Her research has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, the Getty Research Institute, the Royal Music Association of the United Kingdom, the Menil Collection in Houston, and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, among others. Dr. Warak has previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin, at the University of Houston, and at Sam Houston State University. Please feel free to meet with her to talk about majoring in art history, museum internships, or careers for art historians!

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course will provide an examination of modern art in Europe and the United States through a critical engagement with ideas of modernism and methodologies from 1890 to just after World War II. Media to be studied include photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, and early film.

COURSE OBJECTIVES  
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:  
1. Understand the history and theories of modern art, particularly with regards to visual and material culture from 1890 to 1945.
2. Conduct visual analysis, scholarly writing, research in primary and secondary texts, understand multidisciplinary research methodologies, and write formal analysis and interpretive assignments.

3. Apply course material in terms of improving aesthetic appreciation, problem solving, broader cultural literacy, and facilitate further coursework in the arts and humanities.

**TEXTS FOR CLASS**

Our required text is Herschel Chipp et al, *Theories of Modern Art: A Sourcebook by Artists and Critics* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984). The ISBN number is 9780520052567. All readings for the course will come from this book. Readings for each day should be completed before class begins.

**GRADING POLICY**

This course will have **three exams**. Image lists for each exam will be circulated to students in advance of each of the three course units and a Powerpoint of all of the images will be posted to Blackboard. Exams may consist of a combination of identification questions (artist, title, date, style), fill-in-the-blank questions on vocabulary terms, single slide discussions, double slide comparisons, and short essay questions.

Students will also write **two papers**: one will be a formal analysis of a work of art at the El Paso Museum of Art and the second will be an interpretive paper of a different work. Assignment sheets for the written projects will be posted to Blackboard – make sure to read them thoroughly. Written assignments will be turned in via the Turnitin function on Blackboard and by hard copy. The last exam will NOT be cumulative.

Lastly, students will receive points for in-class **participation**. A good rule of thumb is to try to contribute at least one thing to each class session.

This course will be graded on a **scale of 500 points**.

- Participation: 25 points
- Formal Analysis Paper: 100 points
- Interpretive Paper: 100 points
- Exam 1: 75 points
- Exam 2: 100 points
- Exam 3: 100 points

Therefore, here is the point breakdown for grades:

- 466 – 500 points: A
- 450 – 465 points: A –
- 433 – 449 points: B +
- 416 – 432 points: B
- 400 – 415 points: B -
- 383 – 399 points: C +
- 366 – 382 points: C
- 350 – 365 points: C -
ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory!
Class attendance is a requirement and use of the full class period is expected. An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each lecture—make sure you sign it every day. You will be allowed three absences for any reason without grading consequences. It is up to your discretion how you use these and you do not need to notify me in advance except in the case of a religious holy day (see below). More than three absences from class will result in a lowering of your overall grade by twenty points per absence (remember that this class is graded on a scale of 500 points). Six or more absences will result in an automatic failure of the course. That said, you will receive an attendance bonus of ten points to your final grade if you have perfect attendance (no exceptions; attendance must be 100%).

In the event of a family or personal emergency, quickly notify the Office of the Dean of Students, which is your advocate in these situations. If you wish to have an absence for illness or a family emergency excused, you must go through the Dean of Students’ office for verification; they will then contact me. This is to ensure your rights to medical and personal privacy. See http://sa.utep.edu/dean/student-injury-illness/.

Students should never sign the attendance sheet for anyone else or ask anyone to sign for them. Your signature is your honor. There are severe penalties for infractions on the attendance sheets. This would count as academic dishonesty and is grounds for failure in the course.

It is not enough to be physically present. Students are expected to be prepared for the day and ready to engage actively in class. Students need to remain in class the entire period to get attendance credit. Students who are more than ten minutes late or who leave early will be given half credit for attendance. Tardies / half credits will figure into the absence count.

Students are responsible for acquiring notes and announcements made during missed classes, so students are encouraged to make a friend and exchange email addresses. I will not provide notes for any student.

EMAIL POLICY
All course correspondence from me will take place via Blackboard’s email function. Make sure that you are receiving emails through Blackboard and that you have a current email address on file. Please note that, due to FERPA regulations, I will not email with students about grades. If you have a question or concern about a grade, please visit office hours or make an appointment. Additionally, if you have a question that requires a long
answer, you may be asked to come see me in person to save time. I try to turn around
e-mails as quickly as possible, but do not expect an answer from me after 5:00 p.m.
Lastly, please remember that e-mails are considered a form of professional
correspondence and a little courtesy goes a long way!

**LAPTOPS, TABLETS, AND PHONES**

*Students may not use computers and other electronic devices* (including recording
devices) during class. It is important that students focus their attention on the lectures and
projected images without distractions and that they take careful and detailed notes. Cell
phones and tablets should be silent and kept out of sight. Their bright lights are very
distracting in a dark classroom. **Leave the room if you absolutely must use your phone.** You will be reprimanded and marked absent if you are caught using your phone
in the classroom. Repeat offenses will result in disciplinary action. If a cell phone is
visible in any way during an examination, that student will automatically fail the exam.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Please be respectful of other students in the classroom. Please do not enter the classroom
late, keep your phone out of sight and silent, do not send text messages. Do not pack up
your things before the end of class. Students may bring food or drinks if they are allowed
in the classroom. Your professor’s biggest pet peeves are texting / looking at phones and
packing bags before class ends. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result,
minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for
disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**MAKE-UP POLICY**

Each assignment sheet will explain a late work policy. Exams will be made up ONLY in
the event of an emergency situation. Plan your semester accordingly.

**TAKING NOTES IN CLASS**

Exam material will come from images shown in lectures; therefore, the readings in the
book will be supplemental to lectures and discussions. Completing the readings will not
take the place of attendance and participation in class. It is critical that students take notes
in class. Think of the exams as a way to show off what you have learned in class. I
recommend bringing a notebook designated just for this course. Using bullet points will
help you write down more information. Vocabulary and important terms will be written
on the Powerpoint presentation slides and you should pay special attention to these terms
and the works of art where they may be applicable. Basic identifying information for
each work will also be provided on the Powerpoints (artist name, title, date). Keeping
your image list on hand will help you know which works are viable for the exams;
however, keep in mind that you are encouraged to incorporate other images in your exam
answers as well.
PAPER FORMATTING AND WRITING HELP
Without exception, all papers must be double-spaced and have standard one-inch margins, page numbers (beginning with the first page of the main text), and a title page (with the student’s name, the date, the instructor’s name, and the title). All text must be in twelve-point font, preferably Times New Roman. There should be no extra spaces between paragraphs, and all paragraphs should be properly indented. Any quotations of at least three sentences must be set in block quotes with single spacing. Moreover, there should be a bibliography of cited works on a separate page at the end of the paper, followed by pages with illustrations of any featured artworks. All papers must be received in hardcopy by the start of class on the due date and should also be uploaded to Turnitin. For all questions pertaining to grammar, syntax, footnoting and style, see the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. For an excellent tutorial on how to document sources properly, see the following webpage:
http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch10_s1-0001.html

Students who are concerned about the quality of their writing should contact the Writing Center and make an appointment well before the deadline:
http://academics.utep.edu/writingcenter/

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM
Academic dishonesty or cheating will result in failure in this course. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a professional manner and to maintain honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. All students are responsible for knowing the requirements of academic honesty set forth by UTEP. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to the following: cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, forgery of signatures, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. See the UTEP policy on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty:
http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities provided that they are registered with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) and procure the proper documentation: http://sa.utep.edu/cass (telephone: (915) 747-5148). Students with documented disabilities must meet with the instructor within the first two weeks of class, with CASS documentation in hand, in order to inform him of any special needs. If particular accommodations are required for the exams, the instructor must be informed and presented with the appropriate CASS documentation at least ten days before each scheduled test or no accommodations will be permitted.

POLICY FOR STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including
examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20…” See your professor at least a week in advance if you intend to miss class or an examination in observance of a religious holy day and accommodations will be made.
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

T, Aug. 26
Topic: Introductions

TH, Aug. 28
Topic: Realism and the Rise of Photography

T, Sept. 2
Topic: Proto-Impressionism and Early Abstraction

TH, Sept. 4
Topic: Impressionism and the Modern City
Reading: start reading ahead for Tuesday

T, Sept. 9
Topic: Post-Impressionism and Art Nouveau
Reading: Chipp, pp. 11-47

TH, Sept. 11
Topic: Symbolism, Fauvism, and Early Twentieth Century Color Theory
Reading: Chipp, pp. 48-66; 87-93; 124-128; 130-136

T, Sept. 16
Topic: Cubism and Modern Science I
Reading: Chipp, pp. 193-198; 220-248

TH, Sept. 18
Topic: Cubism and Modern Science II
Reading: Chipp, pp. 260-273

T, Sept. 23
Topic: The Ashcan School and the Stieglitz Circle
Reading: Chipp, pp. 520-530

TH, Sept. 25
Topic: Expressionism I
Reading: Chipp, pp. 146-151; 175-178

T, Sept. 30
Topic: Expressionism II / Exam Review
Reading: Chipp, pp. 152-170

TH, Oct. 2
***EXAM 1***
T, Oct. 7
MUSEUM DAY – EL PASO MUSEUM OF ART

TH, Oct. 9
Topic: Italian Futurism
Reading: Chipp, pp. 281-289; 298-303

T, Oct. 14
Topic: The Russian Avant-Garde
Reading: Chipp, pp. 337-345

TH, Oct. 16
Topic: De Stijl, the Bauhaus, and the Rise of Total Abstraction
Reading: Chipp, pp. 324; 349-363

T, Oct. 21
Topic: Dada and Duchamp
Reading: Chipp, pp. 366-396

TH, Oct. 23
***PAPER 1 DUE***
Topic: Vorticism and Synchromy
Reading: Chipp, pp. 319-320

T, Oct. 28
Topic: Surrealism I
Reading: Chipp, pp. 402-416; 432-438

TH, Oct. 30
Topic: Surrealism II and “Degenerate Art”
Reading: Chipp, pp. 397-402; 417-426; 474-482

T, Nov. 4
REMEMBER TO VOTE!
***EXAM 2***

TH, Nov. 6
Topic: Modern Sculpture
Reading: Chipp, pp. 593-600

T, Nov. 11
Topic: Regionalism and the Rise of the WPA
Reading: Chipp, pp. 466-473
TH, Nov. 13
Topic: Modernism in Latin America
Reading: Chipp, pp. 461-465

T, Nov. 18
Topic: The Harlem Renaissance
Reading: TBA

TH, Nov. 20
Topic: Tachisme and Art Brut in Europe
Reading: Chipp, pp. 606-615

T, Nov. 25
***PAPER 2 DUE***
Topic: Abstract Expressionism I
Reading: Chipp, pp. 532-545; 569-570

TH, Nov. 27
NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

T, Dec. 2
Topic: Abstract Expressionism II
Reading: Chipp, pp. 548-553

TH, Dec. 4
***EXAM 3***