

**ART 4466 Sec. 1: SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY ART Prof. Ryan**

SPRING 2010  
Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:10-1:30 PM  
201 Design

Office: 205 DB  
Tel: 578-8813 Room  
or 578-5411



Bruce Nauman, *Self Portrait as Fountain*, 1966, C-Type Print

*A picture is a tissue of quotations drawn from the innumerable centers of culture.*

-- Sherrie Levine, 1982 (after Roland Barthes)

This course surveys western (and some nonwestern) art from the 1950s through the 1990s—the decline of “modernism” through the rise of “postmodernism”—and views a sampling of recent (early 21st century) work at the end of the course. We will look at major trends and the work of representative artists, and assimilate important theories that underlay the art. Class meetings will combine slide lectures with discussions based on weekly readings. Students are encouraged to assume an active, rather than a passive, posture in the learning process.

**COURSE GOALS:** Familiarity with contemporary art: its artists, works, vocabulary and terminology, and major theories. Ability to feel more knowledgeable in environments featuring contemporary art. An understanding of the relationships between contemporary art and its underlying culture.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY**

- 1) 2 in-class exams, each 30% of final grade
- 2) Final take-home exam -- 30%
- 3) Class participation, overall course performance, and scores on “pop” quizzes or special assignments -- 10%
- 4) Grads only: Graduate symposium -- details to be announced

### **EXAMS:**

Exam 1: Thursday, February 25

Exam 2: Tuesday, March 30

T-H Final due: Thursday, ~~Dec. 10~~, at 12:30 PM

Exam Policy: no excuses for absences are accepted and no make-up exams are given.

Exception for emergencies involving hospitalization, death, or intensive medical care for the student or her/his nuclear family only, and only in cases where the professor is notified within 32 hours of the exam and verifiable documentation follows.

### **TEXTS**

#### Required:

Sam Hunter, *Modern Art*. 3rd Revised and Expanded Edition. Prentice-Hall and Abrams, 2004.  
(3rd Revised Edition of 2000 also acceptable.) Pbk.

Irving Sandler. *Art of the Postmodern Era: From the Late 1960s to the Early 1990s*.  
Westview Press, 1996. Pbk.

#### Additional Readings, Middleton Reserve Desk:

Some additional readings may be recommended or assigned. Material will be placed on limited (2-hour, in-building use) reserve in Middleton.

### **MOODLE**

Course materials, including this syllabus, will be found on the Moodle site for this course, accessed through your PAWS Desktop.

**COURSE SCHEDULE\***

**\*IMPORTANT: Readings listed for each class are to be completed PRIOR TO that class; students should come READY TO DISCUSS readings listed for each class.**

Changes, details, may be announced from time to time throughout the semester

Hunter = Hunter, *Modern Art*; Sandler = Sandler, *Art of the Postmodern Era*

	<i>Class Topics</i>	<i>Reading: Hunter</i>	<i>Reading: Sandler</i>
1	Course introduction;		
2	New York School/American Abstract Expressionism (AAE)	Chap. 17	
3	Post WWII art in Europe: Art informel and CoBra	Chap. 18;	
4	Assemblage, environments Happenings, and performance; <i>Nouveau Realism</i> ; FLUXUS	Chap. 19 pp. 298-305 (thru. Dine) and 308-314; Chap. 20 pp. 329-331	
5	Situationism, British Pop; New York Pop;	Chap. 20 pp. 332-334 Chap. 19 pp. 305-308	
6	California Funk and Chicago Monster school		
7	Formalism: Color Field and Post Painterly Abstraction;	Chap. 19 pp. 314-320	
8	Formalist sculpture; Minimalism		
9	Minimalism		
 <b><u>Exam #1</u></b>			
10	Nouvelle Tendence: Op/- Kinetic/light art; Cal. Light & Space Process; Postminimalism	Reread Chap. 19 pp. 318-319 Chap. 20 pp. 336-339 Chap. 22 pp. 357-365 and 368-370	Introduction and Chap. 1 Postminimalism, pp. 21- 35, 52-58

	<b><i>Class Topics</i></b>	<b><i>Reading: Hunter</i></b>	<b><i>Reading: Sandler</i></b>
11	Conceptual art	Chap. 22 pp. 357-365	Chap. 1 pp. 70-74
12	Joseph Beuys Art Povera	366 (on Beuys) and 370 (Art Povera)	Chap. 2: The Impact of 1968 on European Art
13	Earth art; site art; Photorealism;	Chap. 22 pp. 365-368, and 371-79	Chap. 1 pp. 58-70
14	Body art; Postmodern performance;		Chap. 1 pp. 36-50
15	Feminist Art Movement; Pattern and Decoration (P&D)	Chap. 22 pp. 380-387; Chap. 23 pp. 392-398	Chap. 3 Chap. 4
16	New Image;  Neoexpressionism		Chap. 1 pp. 74-80 Chap. 6  Chaps. 8 and 9
17	Neoexpressionism (finish); Graffiti and East Village Art	Chap. 23 pp. 398-400	Chap. 14 East Village Art Chap. 15
<b><u>Exam #2</u></b>			
19	Postmodernism and Postmodern photography;	Chap. 23 388-392 and 407-412	Chap. 11 Chap. 10 Media Art
20	Deconstruction, appropriation, Neo-Geo		Chaps. 12 and 13
21	Installation art; “Identity art”	Chap. 24	Chap. 16 The “Other”

	<i><b>Class Topics</b></i>	<i><b>Reading: Hunter</b></i>	<i><b>Reading: Other</b></i>
22	Turn of the 21st Century:	Finish Chap. 24	
23	"Young British Artists"		TBA
24	Art 2000s: Current Trends		TBA
25	Grad's symposium		