An Introduction to Modern European Art

CEPD942  5 credit module (equivalent to 2.5 ECTS)

1. Module Leader

Julie Robson

Biography. Tutor in Art and Architecture at the University of Liverpool, Continuing Education. Freelance art historian, gallery educator and lecturer since 1992, I studied Art History and English Literature at the University of Nottingham, Masters Degree in Contemporary Art at University of Liverpool and have been contributing to the International Summer School since its beginning.

2. Module Description

A short introduction to the development of modern art in Europe focusing on Realism, Impressionism, Surrealism, Abstract Art and Conceptual Art and examining key works on display in Liverpool collections. Introductory lectures will take place at the university and follow-up sessions will be gallery-based with interactive workshops and discussions.

3. Module Aims

This module aims to:
• To develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas
• To develop skills in research, collaborative learning and producing and delivering presentations.
• To gain a critical knowledge and understanding of art historical concepts and be able to identify major artistic styles associated with Modernism

4. Content

The following topics will be considered on the module:
• Context: social and art historical background
• Work and legacy of key European artists
• Concepts and styles associated with Modernism
• Critical reception of artists associated with Modernism
• Modern art in Liverpool collections (visit to Tate, FACT, Walker etc)
• Public art found on the streets of the city
• Liverpool Biennial exhibitions

5. Module structure

The module will be delivered over a three-week period in six two hour sessions (four hours per week, total 12 hours contact time).

The course will be divided into theoretical and practice based sessions. Group discussion and sharing of knowledge is integral to the course. Each classroom session will begin with an interactive slide-presentation, followed by group discussion
and workshop. We will also make several visits to galleries in order to examine and discuss art works in context.

6. Teaching methods

The teaching approach will include the following:
- Taught sessions
- Small group working
- Group discussions
- Presentations
- Workshops
- Site visits to galleries and public art in the city

7. Assessment:

Assessment will be by:
- Group presentation (worth 25% of the overall mark)
- Written essay/reflection of 750-850 words (worth 75% of the overall mark)

Standard University policies apply with regard to late submission of assessments. There is no re-assessment opportunity.

8. Course structure:

The course will be interactive in nature, with the sessions highly focused on understanding, interpretation and expression: encouraging students to put theory into practice throughout.

The Indicative schedule is as follows:

**Session One:**
*Introduction to Modern Art in Europe*
The course begins with an introduction to Modernism in Europe with a focus on Impressionism, Post Impressionism and Surrealism. Students will learn about the social and art-historical backgrounds to these movements and learn to identify styles of key artists such as Monet, Degas, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Picasso and Dali.

**Session Two:**
*Walker Art Gallery*
We will follow up Tuesday’s session by discussing developments in early 20th century art, focusing on modern works in the Walker Collection.

**Session Three:**
*Art in Post-War Europe*
Following the atrocities of World War II, many artists in Europe looked for new ways of expressing their angst through painting and sculpture, and also began to incorporate new materials and processes into their works. We will discuss the development of Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Conceptual Art and the pluralist approach of artists at the end of the Twentieth Century.

**Session Four:**
*Tate Visit*
We will walk down to the Albert Dock and discuss some examples of public art on the way. At the Tate, students will take part in gallery workshops based on selected artworks from the current displays.

Session Five:
Art in the 21st Century
A site visit to FACT, one of Liverpool’s newest contemporary art galleries: here we will examine the latest exhibitions and we will also discuss some of the public art in the redeveloped RopeWalks area near to the gallery.

Session Six:
Presentations and summary
For this session, students are asked to deliver a group presentation on a modern art work in a European gallery or public place (one they have seen during their trip).

9. Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Assessment component which assesses this learning outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas in written and spoken language</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research a topic and work collaboratively to produce a written essay/reflection and a group presentation</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate an understanding of art historical concepts and be able to identify major artistic styles associated with Modernism</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>Group presentation</td>
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10. Skills

Key skills that will be developed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>How this skill is developed</th>
<th>Mode of assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Group discussions, activities and tasks in class</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Orally in group discussions, activities and tasks in class, in writing by production of assessed assignment</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>Practice and micro-teaching within the sessions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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11. Books, ebooks and websites:

The University Website at www.liv.ac.uk/library provides access to many relevant books and electronic books, as well as academic journals and databases.

Recommended Pre-Course Reading


All three of these books are excellent introductions to 60s Culture and Liverpool, but it is not necessary or required to read all of them. We would recommend choosing and reading one, or at least dipping into the chapters of particular interest to you.

We may also assign readings from these books as preparatory work during the course.

If you are not familiar with the English grammatical system, it would be advisable to also buy or borrow a good grammar reference book and/or a learner’s dictionary.

Examples include:


Core Texts


Useful Websites

http://www.tate.org.uk

http://www.artinliverpool.com

http://www.biennial.com/