

# Syllabus/Welcome Letter

Art 205: Modern Art

Spring 2025: CRN 30871

**Start Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

Welcome to Art 205! This is an art history course, and I, Stephanie Fikri, will be your instructor. Please read this letter to understand the requirements for this online course.

Note: I reserve the right to alter the course schedule and/or content as I deem necessary.

## Required Textbook:

Arnason, H. H. and Elizabeth C. Mansfield, *History of Modern Art*, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.

The textbook can be bought or rented at the bookstore, through the Pearson website, or through other online sites for textbooks (chegg.com, Amazon, etc.).

## Coarse Content:

The course consists of PDF lectures discussing painting, sculpture, and architecture in Western art spanning from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Lectures will look at styles and techniques of works and the development of these visual aspects over time, as well as social, political, and economic influences on art over the course of these centuries.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss representative works of art and architecture as well as the stylistic differences of the major artistic periods of Modernism to Contemporary art.
2. Analyze and differentiate works of art and architecture in terms of historical context, cultural values, visual language and aesthetic innovation.
3. Write about art movements, individual art works and artists using correct terminology and vocabulary.

**Your first assignment is to participate in the Discussion posted for Week 1. This is mandatory and used as attendance, so a lack of contributing to this discussion will result in being dropped from the course.**

Assignments are designed to help you achieve certain skills for analyzing art and to comprehend the social, political, and economic context of the works and of the artists. You will also learn historical and cultural significances, such as war and the rise of mass media, and the impact these had on art, the artists, and the artworld. You will be guided in how to interpret art through analyzing the visual elements and principles of design. In this interpretation you will learn how to properly use certain terminology and how to describe the effects of certain materials and techniques. For this course, the types of visual art that will be studied are primarily painting, sculpture, architecture, and printmaking.

As an online course, students need to be prepared to spend the same amount of time weekly in studying and doing assignments as for a traditional face-to-face course. Access to the proper technology is required. Announcements will be sent out weekly, and the readings, pdf lectures, assignments, videos,

quizzes, and discussions will be posted weekly in Canvas. Students should use a computer for a larger screen; this course, because it is based on looking at art in detail, cannot be completed through the use of a cellphone. Students will need to have access to writing programs such as Word or Google doc, and to the internet to access Canvas, where all the assignments and pdfs will be posted. I will use online resources as well, such as videos and museum websites. Occasionally, I may post PowerPoints in Canvas.

**Assignments:**

**Papers:**

There will be a total of 2 writing assignments worth 30 points each for a total of 60 points. The writing assignments are based on the readings and lectures and will be posted at least a week before the due date. Terms and concepts that you will need to know for these assignments will be listed in a **study guide**. These papers assess your ability to use the terms correctly, identify the content and context of the works, and draw comparisons and differences between styles and artists. Responses are to be typed in essay form and 3 pages in length. Formatting should be standard with 1” margins, double-spaced, no spaces between paragraphs and 12 pt. font. These papers are submitted to Turnitin through the Canvas assignment page. Uploading your file (as a Google or Word doc) is best, as copying and pasting your paper into the textbox alters the formatting.

**Late Policy:** Late papers will be lowered 10% for **each day** past the due date.

**Quizzes:**

There are 8 quizzes (approximately every 2 weeks) worth 15 points each for a total of 120 points. Quizzes consist of identifying styles and their characteristics, defining terms and techniques, recognizing the content, understanding the context, and what makes the art significant due to innovative approaches. These will mostly be in the form of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank, but short answer questions may be included in some quizzes. Use the **study guide** as you read the lectures and textbook and be sure to note the terms and the artists/artwork and their styles when studying. Quizzes are to be completed no later than Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.

**Discussions:**

The weekly discussions function as students’ participation as well as exercises in looking at art and finding meaning. You make your initial posts to the discussions by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday of each week, then you will make your replies to other students' posts by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday of each week. In your replies, comment on what you liked or learned from the post or share with the student’s opinion. These are worth 5 points each (3 points for your initial post, and 1 point for each reply), and **the quality of your contribution matters** (don’t just reply, “I liked your post,” or “I agree with what you said,” be specific!).

The breakdown of points and the grading scale:

ASSIGNMENTS:	POSSIBLE POINTS:
DISCUSSIONS (15 @ 5 POINTS EACH)	75 pts.
PAPERS (2 @ 30 POINTS EACH)	60 pts.
QUIZZES (8 @ 15 POINTS EACH)	120 pts.
TOTAL:	255 pts.

Grading scale: 94-100=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 84-86=B; 80-83=B-; 77-79=C+; 70-76=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:**

All work must be your own, copying from another student or text that is not your own, **including AI**, is unacceptable and will call for disciplinary action, see "[Academic Honesty](#)" in the Cuesta College class schedule. The first offense of plagiarism will result in no credit for that assignment and a warning. The second offense will result in a failing grade in the course and/or reporting to the Dean's office. Taking ideas and claiming they are your own constitutes plagiarism, and this includes paraphrasing (rewording). If you use ideas, wording, or exact quotes, you need to properly cite your source. This can be done as footnotes or parenthetical citations. In the field of Art History, the Chicago Style is the preferred method, but any method you are familiar will suffice.

**Student Standards:**

College students are considered adults and must have the maturity to manage sensitive content. Some examples of imagery or topics that may be sensitive typically found in an art class are nudity, religion, sexuality, gender roles and race. I expect each student to be considerate and open-minded when dealing with these issues. Please read the [Student Code of Conduct](#) if you need guidance. Inappropriate behavior will be reported.

**Drop Policy:**

Students who miss the first week of assignments, have not submitted 60% of assigned work at any time up through the withdrawal deadline, or have been inactive for 4 weeks or more may be dropped from the course without notice. In addition to my policy, please review the [Cuesta Policy for Drops](#).

Important dates:

Drop without a 'W': February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Drop with a 'W': April 20<sup>th</sup>

**Office hours and communication:**

The best way to reach me is through my Cuesta email: [stephanie\\_fikri@cuesta.edu](mailto:stephanie_fikri@cuesta.edu). Throughout the semester, I will commit to being on Canvas daily and available to answer questions somewhat immediately. For questions or concerns that do not require an immediate response, you can email me at any time, however, I will not check my emails over the weekend nor over the holidays. Please use your Cuesta email when corresponding with me, this will help ensure emails do not fall into the junk or spam folder. Weekly meetings for office hours via Zoom: Weds. & Thurs. from 6:00-6:30, meeting ID 299 264 0500 passcode G8D8vt.

I look forward to exploring art with you this semester and seeing your knowledge and passions grow.

Sincerely,

Ms. Fikri

[stephanie\\_fikri@cuesta.edu](mailto:stephanie_fikri@cuesta.edu)

Please see the following pages for Cuesta College's Online Readiness Survey, Guidance for Canvas and Tech Support, DSPS, and Schedule for the Semester

**Online Readiness:**

If you are uncertain whether online instruction will work for you, please go to Cuesta's [Online Education Resources](#) page on the Cuesta College website to take a "self-assessment". There are many resources that were designed to help you understand the basis for an online class and the skills necessary for success. Students enrolled for online instruction are required to read and write as a heavy part of their assessment for learning. If you struggle in these areas, online instruction may not be for you. Students also need to be organized and self-directed.

**Guidance for Canvas and Tech Support:**

Access to the course will not be made available until the night before the semester starts. On the first day of class you need to go onto Canvas and open your Art 205 folder. Every week you will be given assignments, and you can use the course calendar to help organize your work.

To access the course web page during the first week of classes, follow these instructions:

1. To get to the host site: Go to the Cuesta College home page ([www.cuesta.edu](http://www.cuesta.edu)) and click on "Canvas" (in the upper left corner of the page)
2. Log in: Enter your Canvas username and password (same as for MyCuesta). These were given to you when you enrolled as a student.
3. User Dashboard: Click on the link for ART 205; this will take you to the course home page. Download the syllabus and familiarize yourself with the course. If you are not familiar with logging into Canvas, please refer to the [Canvas Quick Reference Guide](#). If you are having difficulty logging into Canvas after the first day of class and need assistance please email me or Cuesta's technical support at this email address: [support@my.cuesta.edu](mailto:support@my.cuesta.edu). If the problem is with Canvas specifically, their technical support email is: [support@instructure.com](mailto:support@instructure.com). Additionally, at the bottom of Cuesta College's home page there are links for online education regarding Canvas, some of these are videos to show you how to navigate the system.

If you are still having issues with Canvas after following the online resources above or emailing for support, you can contact the Canvas Support Hotline at (877) 921-7680 or click on the help button on the Canvas Navigation to report a problem. If you are having difficulty viewing the course or logging in, it may be because you are not using the correct url: <https://cuesta.instructure.com/> or you are using your phone or an unsupported browser. Your learning environment is best accessed from a desktop or laptop computer using Firefox or Chrome. This may solve your problem! Please review the [browser requirements and minimum computer specifications](#).

**DSPS:**

If you have a disability and might need accommodations in this class, such as extended time on assignments or other resources, please contact me as soon as possible so that you can receive appropriate accommodations in a timely manner. You should also contact DSPS ([Disabled Student Programs & Services](#)) at 805-546-3148.

## Schedule for the Semester:

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<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments:</b>
Week 1: 1/21	Introduction: Academic Art	Reading: Chapter 1 <b>Quiz 1: Syllabus</b>
Week 2: 1/27	Realism & Impressionism	Reading: Chapter 2
Week 3: 2/3	Post-Impressionism	Reading: Chapter 3 <b>Quiz 2</b>
Week 4: 2/10	Arts & Craft; Art Nouveau; Fauvism; Proto-Expressionism	Reading: Chapters 4 & 5
Week 5: 2/17	<b>(Light week: President's Day)</b> Expressionism	Reading: Chapter 6 <b>No Quiz and no Discussion</b>
Week 6: 2/24	Cubism	Reading: Chapter 7 <b>Paper 1 Due</b>
Week 7: 3/3	European Art after Cubism	Reading: Chapter 9 <b>Quiz 3</b>
Week 8: 3/10	Dada	Reading: Chapter 10
Week 9: 3/17	New Objectivity Art in France after WWI	Reading: Chapter 11 <b>Quiz 4</b>
<b>Week 10: 3/24</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Week 11: 3/31	De Stijl & Bauhaus	Reading: Chapters 12 & 13
Week 12: 4/7	Surrealism	Reading: Chapter 14 <b>Quiz 5</b> <b>Paper 2 Due</b>
Week 13: 4/14	Art in America before WWII	Reading: Chapter 15
Week 14: 4/21	Abstract Expressionism	Reading: Chapter 16 <b>Quiz 6</b>
Week 15: 4/28	Fluxus and Pop Art	Reading: Chapter 18 (pp.450-455: Christo – Beuys) & Chapter 19
Week 16: 5/5	1960s Abstraction (Color Field; Op Art; Minimalism)	Reading: Chapter 20 <b>Quiz 7</b>
Week 17: 5/12	Conceptual and Activist Art	Reading: Chapter 22
Week 18: 5/19	Chuck Close & Cindy Sherman	Reading: Chapter 23 pp. 610-611: Body of Evidence - Photorealism; Chapter 24 pp. 658-659 – Postmodern Practices and Appropriation, pp. 662-663 – Cindy Sherman <b>Quiz 8</b>

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