

Course Description Form

Course number and section: ARTH 315

Course Topic: Many Modernisms: Art Across Cultures

Credits: 3-0-0

Term: Term 2

Instructor: Nathalie Hager

Academic Calendar Entry:

Exploration of the diverse expressions of Modernist art through a global lens, focusing on the interactions between various modernities and the influences of European models of the avant-garde. The unique local experiences of modernism and the dynamic exchanges that shaped 20th century artistic ideologies and practices are highlighted.

Prerequisite:

Third-year standing.

Course Description:

This course offers a critical introduction to the foundations of art's distinct and multiple modernities. It begins with the poet Charles Baudelaire's late-nineteenth century call to artists in Paris to capture 'modernité', and then traces modern art's development and global reach across the mid-twentieth century. Moving beyond narratives that focus on Western Europe and the United States to investigate a range of countries whose art has often been excluded from art's history, students will closely examine individual artworks by key figures and undertake a broad comparative examination of movements and styles from around the world. Assigned readings include short primary texts—artists writing about their art, and on their theories of art—and select secondary readings ask what it means to study modernism in and outside of the West. No prior art history required.

No textbook required, assigned readings and videos.