New York University in France
Spring 2010

The French Art World in the 20th Century
Professor Shalini Le Gall

Description
Beginning with the grandeur of Paris during the Belle Epoque and the Exposition Universelle of 1900, and moving to the violence and tragedy of World Wars I and II, this course examines the modernist art movements of the first part of the 20th century. After identifying the origins of modernism in the late 19th century with Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, we will consider the ways in which Fauvism, Cubism, Expressionism, and Primitivism redefined modernism for the 20th century. Working with Dada and Surrealist art works, we will evaluate the relationship between humor, critique, and cultural and political dissension in artistic production. Finally, we will examine the trans-Atlantic currents of Abstraction, looking at Abstract Expressionism, L'Art Informel, and the Nouveau Realistes. Throughout this exploration, we will interrogate how social history, shaped by contemporaneous developments in politics, gender, and race, informed the construction of an artistic modernism in the 20th century.

Instructor: Professor Shalini Le Gall (shalini.legall@gmail.com)
Term: Spring 2010
Time: Tuesdays, 10:45-12:15; Thursdays 11:00-12:30
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15

Instruction
Instructional format will include slide lectures, seminar-like discussions, group work, and museum visits.

Attendance
Students are expected to be present and on time for weekly lectures and museum visits. Tardiness and unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your final grade.

Assessment
Class Participation 20%
Short Paper 15%
Mid-term Exam 20%
Research Paper 25%
Final Exam 20%

Readings

Assigned readings can be found in the course textbook, coursepack, and website. Discussion readings below can be found in the coursepack and are to be closely read for analysis during class. Students are required to bring the coursepack to each class and museum meeting. Additional readings can be found on the website.
1. Feb. 2
Course Introduction—Presentation of Syllabus

2. Feb. 4
Impressionism & Post-Impressionism

3. Feb. 9
Impressionism & Post-Impressionism
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 2, pp. 23-33

4. Feb. 11—MUSEE D’ORSAY (TBC)
Impressionism & Post-Impressionism
Metro: Solferino (line 12)
Meeting: Museum entrance 11:00

5. Feb. 16
Fauvism & French Expressionism
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 7, pp. 101-111
DISCUSSION: Henri Matisse, "Notes of a Painter" (1908), pp. 69-75, in HWAIT

6. Feb. 18—MUSEE DE L’ORANGERIE (TBC)
Collecting Modern Art
Metro: Concorde (lines 1, 8, 12)
Meeting: Museum entrance, 11:00

7. Feb. 23
Primitivism & Cubism
Readings:

8. Feb. 25—MUSEE DU QUAI BRANLY (TBC)
Primitivism & the Arts of Africa
Metro: Alma-Marceau (line 9—cross the Seine)
Meeting: Museum entrance, 11:00
Readings: Emil Nolde, "On Primitive Art" (1912), pp. 96-97 in HWAIT; Carl Einstein, "Negro Sculpture" (1915), pp. 110-116 in HWAIT
9. Mar. 2
Cubism—Analytic & Synthetic Cubism
Readings: Hunter, chap. 9, pp. 132-147

**Short Paper Due**

10. Mar. 4—MUSEE D’ART MODERNE DE LA VILLE DE PARIS (PALAIS DE TOKYO) (TBC)
Fauvism, Cubism, Primitivism, Abstraction
Metro: Alma-Marceau or Iena (line 9)
Meeting: Museum entrance, 11:00
Readings: Guillaume Apollinaire, “The Cubists” (1911), pp. 185-6 in HWAIT

11. Mar. 9
Cubism & Orphism
Readings:

12. Mar. 11
**Midterm Exam**

13. Mar. 16
German Expressionism—Die Brücke
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 8, pp. 112-131.

14. Mar. 18—LE MUSEE NATIONAL D'ART MODERNE (CENTRE POMPIDOU) (TBC)
Fauvism, Cubism, Primitivism, Abstraction
Metro: Rambuteau (line 11)
Meeting: Museum entrance, 11:00

15. Mar. 23
Futurism, Suprematism, De Stijl
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 10, pp. 148-162

16. Mar. 25
Constructivism and 20th Century Sculpture
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 5 & 15, pp. 61-80, 234-246

17. Mar. 30
Dada & Fantastic Art
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 11, pp. 163-177

18. Apr. 1—ESPACE DALI (TBC)
Salvador Dali
Metro: Abbesses (line 12)
Meeting: Museum entrance, 11 :00
19. Apr. 6
Surrealism—Reconciling Dream & Reality
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 12, pp. 178-195

20. Apr. 8—MUSEE ZADKINE (TBC)
Sculpture & Modernity
Metro: Notre-Dame-des-Champs (line 12) or Vavin (line 4)
Meeting: Museum entrance, 11:00

21. Apr. 13
The School of Paris
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 14, pp. 215-233

22. Apr. 15
Abstract Expressionism
Readings:
Hunter, Chap. 16 & 17, pp. 247-284
DISCUSSION: Jackson Pollock, “Interview with William Wright,” (1950), pp. 583-6 in HWAIT.

23. May 4
Post-War Europe—L’Art Informel
Readings: Hunter, Chap. 18

Research Paper Due

24. May 6—MUSEE D’ART MODERNE DE LA VILLE DE PARIS (PALAIS DE TOKYO) (TBC)
Dada & Surrealism, The School of Paris, Post-War Art
Metro: Alma-Marceau or Iena (line 9)
Meeting: Museum entrance, 11:00
Readings: André Breton, from the “First Manifesto of Surrealism” (1924), pp. 447-452 in HWAIT

25. May 11
Final Exam—Part 1

26. May 13
Final Exam—Part 2