

# Cultural Modernisms and Post-Modernisms

*Spring 2022*

*HUMN 2043/4043, Sec. 201*

*TR 12:30-1:50, LI 113F*

Professor Kirsten Lodge  
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**Office:** 217 Bea Wood Hall, 940-397-4363

**Office Hours:** MWF 12-12:50, TR 11-12, and by appointment

This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to the cultures of the United States, Europe, China, Japan, Africa, and Latin America from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. The emphasis will be on Western cultures, including the major movements in the arts in literature that have shaped our culture, such as Impressionism, Modernism, and Postmodernism. We will look at all aspects of culture, including history, art, literature, philosophy, and music. Students will thus acquire an understanding of world cultures and how they have developed during this time period; encounter different ways of viewing the world; learn to analyze, interpret, and think critically about diverse works of art, literature, and music; experiment with interdisciplinary approaches to the material; and learn to identify, describe, and discuss major themes, works, movements, and historical events. They will also develop critical thinking and writing skills in short essays, evaluating individual works and synthesizing the knowledge they have gained. Participation in class discussion and activities will help them to express themselves and support their ideas at an advanced level. In exploring these different cultures, students will hopefully wish to continue to learn about them after the end of the semester, and even visit some of the countries we will discuss.

## *Course Schedule*

### *Chapter 18: Impressionism and Postimpressionism*

**Jan. 11** Introduction; Impressionist Art

**13** Art; Symbolist Literature; Music; Opera

**Reading:** 238-46; 258-59

**Writing:** Response to Charles Baudelaire or Stéphane Mallarmé

**18** Naturalist Literature; Post-Impressionist Art

**Reading:** 246-51; 259-60

**Writing:** Response to Kate Chopin

**20** Naturalist Literature; Art

**Reading:** 260-64

**Writing:** Response to Henrik Ibsen

***Upper-Level Presentation Proposals Due***

**25** Art; Sculpture; Architecture; Philosophy

**Reading:** 252-56; 264-68  
**Writing:** Response to Friedrich Nietzsche

27 Art; Philosophy  
**Reading:** 268-71  
**Writing:** Response to Sigmund Freud

### *Chapter 19: Later Chinese Civilization*

**Feb. 1** History; Painting; Calligraphy  
**Reading:** 274-81; 290  
**Writing:** Response to Yuan Hong-Dao or Yuan Zhong-Dao

3 Ceramics; Architecture; Literature  
**Reading:** 281-85; 290-92  
**Writing:** Response to Cao Xueqin or Zhang Ting-Yu

8 Music; Modern Chinese Literature  
**Reading:** 285-88; 292-93  
**Writing:** Response to Lu Xun, Bei Dao, or Li-Young Lee

### *Chapter 20: Later Japanese Civilization*

10 History; Painting; Woodblock Prints; Gardens; Literature  
**Reading:** 296-300; 302-7; 312-15  
**Writing:** Response to Saikaku Ihara, Hakuin Ekaku, or Yosano Akiko  
***Take-Home Test on Chapters 18 and 19 Due***

15 Architecture; Modern Japanese Literature and Film  
**Reading:** 301-2; 315-16  
**Writing:** Response to Ryunosuke Akutagawa

17 Theater; Music; Modern Japanese Literature  
**Reading:** 307-10; 316-17  
**Writing:** Response to Yukio Mishima

### *Chapter 21: Later Africa and Latin America*

22 African History; Sculpture; Music; Literature  
**Reading:** 320-28; 336-37; 344-45  
**Writing:** Response to Chinua Achebe or Wole Soyinka

24 South African Literature  
**Reading:** 345-47  
**Writing:** Response to J. M. Coetzee

**Mar. 1** Latin American History; Painting; Music; Literature  
**Reading:** 328-34; 337-40; 342-44  
**Writing:** Response to Jorge Luis Borges or Gabriel García Márquez

**3** Latin American Literature  
**Reading:** 340-44  
**Writing:** Response to Pablo Neruda, Julio Cortázar, or Rosario Castellanos

### *Chapter 22: Early Twentieth Century*

**8** Art Before World War I; Music; Literature  
**Reading:** 350-56; 364-69; 384  
**Writing:** Response to Franz Kafka

**10** Art; Music; History; Literature  
**Reading:** 356-61; 385-87  
**Writing:** Response to T. S. Eliot  
*Take-Home Test on Chapters 20 and 21 Due*

**14-18** No Class: Spring Break

**22** Art; Sculpture; Literature  
**Reading:** 361-62; 392-93  
**Writing:** Response to William Butler Yeats or Rainer Maria Rilke

**24** Art; Architecture; Literature  
**Reading:** 362-64; 387-88; 390-92  
**Writing:** Response to Virginia Woolf or James Joyce

**29** American Art and Literature  
**Reading:** 370-82; 387-91  
**Writing:** Response to Langston Hughes or Ernest Hemingway

**31** Russian Art and Literature  
**Reading:** 357-58; 384-85  
**Writing:** Response to Anna Akhmatova or Osip Mandelstam

**Apr. 5** Russian Film  
**Reading:** 369-70

### *Chapter 23: Mid-Twentieth Century and Later*

**7** History; Philosophy; Art  
**Reading:** 396-404; 418-20  
**Writing:** Response to Sartre

**12** Art; Architecture; Drama; Sculpture  
**Reading:** 404-7; 421-24  
**Writing:** Response to Eugene Ionesco  
*Upper-Level Paper Proposals Due*

**14 No Class:** Easter Break

**19** Pop Culture and Artists of the Everyday  
**Reading:** 407-11  
*Take-Home Test on Chapter 22 Due*

**21** Museum Visit

**26** Minimal and Conceptual Art; Architecture; Literature; Music  
**Reading:** 411-16; 420-21; 424-25  
**Writing:** Response to Allen Ginsburg or Wislawa Szymborska

**28** Twenty-First Century; Modernism vs. Postmodernism  
**Reading:** 428-29; 437-38  
**Writing:** Response to Eric Chevillard (D2L)

**May 3 8-10 a.m. Final Exam**  
*Upper-Level Papers Due*

### **Course Requirements:**

- 1. Participation (2043, 10%; 4043, 5%).** It is essential that you participate in class discussion and activities to help you understand and master all of the material we cover.
- 2. Critical Writing Assignments (2043, 30% total; 4043, 25% total).** You will submit short critical responses of about one double-spaced page (c. 250 words) on the **primary** readings in the textbook as indicated in the syllabus. These readings appear **AFTER** each chapter; the page numbers are indicated in the reading assignment for the day. Your response should briefly demonstrate your understanding of the text, offer an interpretation or commentary, and situate it within the context we are studying and/or compare and contrast it with other primary texts. Please submit your response through D2L by 11:30 a.m. on the relevant class day. I will distribute a rubric to clarify the assignment and the method of evaluation and post it on D2L.
- 3. Quizzes (2023, 10% total; 4043, 5% total).** You will have one or two quizzes on important terms, concepts, and artworks for each chapter. Quizzes will be announced one week in advance in class and by email.
- 4. Three Take-Home Tests (2043, 30% total; 4043, 25% total).** These take-home tests will be essay-based, and should be 3-4 pages long, double spaced.

**5. Final Exam (2033, 20%; 4043, 15%).** The final exam will consist of a critical thinking essay that will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the course material as a whole.

**6. Research-Based Presentation (4043, 10%).** Upper-level students must choose a topic for a presentation of approximately 10-15 minutes. The topic should complement the textbook, not repeat what it says. You will be expected to consult at least three scholarly sources, and give me an outline of the presentation and a bibliography in MLA or APA style on the day of your presentation. You should submit a topic proposal to me by **Feb. 4**, and we will set a date for your presentation.

**7. Research Paper (4043, 15%).** Upper-level students will write a 10-page research paper on a topic of their choice, **but not on the same topic as their presentation.** The paper must be in MLA or APA format, including in-text citations. Please submit a brief paper proposal by **May 7**. The paper is due by the day of the final exam. If it is late, your grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (e.g., A > A-) per day, including weekends.

**8. Attendance.** You must attend class to help you master and contextualize the material. Moreover, I will present material in class that is not available in the textbook. You are permitted three unexcused absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of a note from a doctor, dean, military official, or coach. If you believe that your absence should be excused but you do not have a note, you must write to me to explain your absence. If you have COVID, have been exposed to someone who has COVID, or suspect you might have COVID, that counts as a legitimate excuse: Do not come to class. On the other hand, having to work does not constitute an excused absence. Communication is essential: if you do not explain your absence to me immediately before or after, it will not be excused. Your final grade will be lowered by one point for each unexcused absence in excess of the three permitted unexcused absences.

If you are late to class, see me after class to make sure you have not been marked absent. If you are absent, you are responsible for all material covered during that class section. Repeated lateness will also add up to absences: three “lates” will be counted as one absence. If you have a valid reason for frequently coming to class late, please inform me at the beginning of the semester.

Please check your grades online regularly and let me know if you have any questions.

### **Course Policies:**

#### **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated, including on the daily assignments. If you deliberately plagiarize on any assignments or papers, or engage in any other form of academic dishonesty as defined by the MSU Student Handbook and the course Academic Dishonesty Policy (distributed in class and available on D2L), *you will get an F in the course and disciplinary proceedings will be initiated. There will be*

*no second chances.* Other forms of academic dishonesty include, for instance, forging doctor's notes and lying to the professor.

**Cell Phones:** No cell phones should be visible in class, unless we are using them to look up information for the class! **If I see you use your cell phone during class for any other reason, you may be marked late or absent without any warning.**

**Food and Beverages:** You may bring beverages to class, but not food.

**Computers:** You may bring your computer to class to take notes *only with my explicit permission.* **If you do take notes on your computer, you must show them to me. If you use your computer for any other purpose during class, you may be marked late or absent without warning.**

**Full Attention:** Please be alert and do not lay your head down on your desk during class, or I will mark you late or absent without warning.

**Textbook:** Please bring your textbook to class.

**Class Dismissal:** Please do not start to pack up your things or leave until I have dismissed the class. If you believe I have gone over the allotted time, please raise your hand and let me know.

**Email Communication:** I will communicate with you through email. You are responsible for checking your email daily for any reminders, clarifications, or other communications from me.

**Safe Zone Statement:** This classroom is a “safe zone” in which all students will be treated and will treat one another equally, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is encouraged.

#### **Additional Information:**

**PowerPoint Presentations and Online Videos:** I will provide a link on D2L to all PowerPoint presentations and online videos shown in class so that you may review them.

**Office Hours:** My office hours are given above, and I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have, whether they are about the texts we are reading, assignments, exams, absences, or anything else—or you may just come by to talk. If you can't make my office hours, we can make an appointment. You may also contact me by phone or email; email is much better, as I check it more often than phone messages.

**Academic Accommodations:** If you require special accommodations, please contact Disability Support Service, 168 Clark Student Center, 397-4140, at the beginning of the

semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Arrangements cannot be applied retroactively.

**Required Book (at the bookstore and on reserve at the library):** Benton, Janetta and Robert DiYanni. *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities*. Vol. 2. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2012.