

Cultural Modernisms and Post-Modernisms

Spring 2023
HUMN 2043/4043, Sec. 201
TR 9:30-10:50, PY 205

Professor Kirsten Lodge
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Office: 217 Bea Wood Hall
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. 17 Introduction; Impressionist Art

19 Art; Symbolist Literature; Music; Opera

Reading: 238-46; 258-59

Writing: Response to Charles Baudelaire or Stéphane Mallarmé

24 Naturalist Literature; Post-Impressionist Art

Reading: 246-51; 259-60

Writing: Response to Kate Chopin

26 Naturalist Literature; Art

Reading: 260-64

Writing: Response to Henrik Ibsen

Upper-Level Presentation Proposals Due

31 Art; Sculpture; Architecture; Philosophy

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

Feb. 2 Art; Philosophy
Reading: 268-71
Writing: Response to Sigmund Freud

Chapter 19: Later Chinese Civilization

7 History; Painting; Calligraphy
Reading: 274-81; 290
Writing: Response to Yuan Hong-Dao or Yuan Zhong-Dao

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

14 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

16 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

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

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

Chapter 21: Later Africa and Latin America

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

Mar. 2 South African Literature
Reading: 345-47
Writing: Response to J. M. Coetzee

7 Latin American History; Painting; Music; Literature

Reading: 328-34; 337-40; 342-44

Writing: Response to Jorge Luis Borges or Gabriel García Márquez

9 Latin American Literature

Reading: 340-44

Writing: Response to Pablo Neruda, Julio Cortázar, or Rosario Castellanos

13-17 No Class: Spring Break

Chapter 22: Early Twentieth Century

21 Art Before World War I; Music; Literature

Reading: 350-56; 364-69; 384

Writing: Response to Franz Kafka

23 Art; Music; History; Literature

Reading: 356-61; 385-87

Writing: Response to T. S. Eliot

Take-Home Test on Chapters 20 and 21 Due

27 Last Day for 'W'

28 Art; Sculpture; Literature

Reading: 361-62; 392-93

Writing: Response to William Butler Yeats or Rainer Maria Rilke

30 Art; Architecture; Literature

Reading: 362-64; 387-88; 390-92

Writing: Response to Virginia Woolf or James Joyce

Apr. 4 American Art and Literature

Reading: 370-82; 387-91

Writing: Response to Langston Hughes or Ernest Hemingway

6 No Class: Easter Break

11 Russian Art and Literature

Reading: 357-58; 384-85

Writing: Response to Anna Akhmatova or Osip Mandelstam

13 Russian Film

Reading: 369-70

Chapter 23: Mid-Twentieth Century and Later

18 History; Philosophy; Art

Reading: 396-404; 418-20

Writing: Response to Sartre

20 Art; Architecture; Drama; Sculpture

Reading: 404-7; 421-24

Writing: Response to Eugene Ionesco

Upper-Level Paper Proposals Due

25 Pop Culture and Artists of the Everyday

Reading: 407-11

Take-Home Test on Chapter 22 Due

27 Minimal and Conceptual Art; Architecture; Literature; Music

Reading: 411-16; 420-21; 424-25

Writing: Response to Allen Ginsburg or Wislawa Szymborska

May 2 Twenty-First Century; Modernism vs. Postmodernism

Reading: 428-29; 437-38

4 Writing: Response to Eric Chevillard (D2L)

9 Final Exam, 8-10 a.m.

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 9 a.m. on the day it is due. 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.

Cellphones and computers: Please do not use cellphones or computers in class. Exceptions: if you wish to consult an e-text on your device, please tell me ahead of time; in addition, if a question arises that we cannot answer, I may suggest you do a google search on your device. If you wish to take notes on your computer, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and show me your notes at my request.

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

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 when we are discussing primary texts.

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 D2L email. You should set it up to be delivered to your preferred email address. If you do not do so, you must check it on D2L. 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.

TASP's Learning Center (TLC): Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center offers drop-in tutoring support for most general subject areas including but not limited to Writing, Math, Science, Business, and Foreign Languages. Students check in to work one-on-one with a tutor typically for an hour regarding specific concepts. To check the availability of tutors in a specific subject area, navigate to: <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/on-campus.php>.

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. 4th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2012.