GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Contemporary Art: Ways of Worldmaking (A005661)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

null

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Davidts, Wouter	LW17	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
null		

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Modern art, contemporary art, modernism, avant-garde, post-modernism

Position of the course

This advanced course is a continuation of the survey courses of the 1ste Bachelor. it aims to help students to gain a more indepth understanding of the history and theory of the visual arts of the twentieth and twentyfirst centuries. Apart from a detailed analysis of carefully selected specific works, this course deals with relevant art theoretical concepts.

Contents

The course *Contemporary Art: Ways of Worldmaking* deals with the commonly accepted post-medium condition of art today. We start with a status questionis of the 'pluralist' situation that marks the visual arts since the 1970s and still informs present-day developments.
The course aims to develop a potential dispositif to read and understand the pluriform manifestations of contemporary art, as it willy-nilly relates to the zero degree of conceptual art.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of the history of modern art
• by having followed and finished successfully the courses Overzicht van de beeldende kunst I: 1300-1789"(A005319) & "Overzicht van de beeldende kunst II: 1789 tot heden" (A002876)
• by having acquired basic knowledge of the art of the 20th and 21st centuries in another way

Final competences

1 To be familiar with influential key works, prominent artists and various currents and tendencies of the history of modern and contemporary art.
2 To be able to analyze artworks formally and thematically as well as to situate them in their social context.
3 To have an understanding of important artistic and cultural concepts and debates that are essential for research on modern and contemporary art.
4 To be able to read independently and critically important texts by modern artists and theoretists.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

• Lectures: abundantly illustrated
• Guided Excursion: one-day trip (mandatory) to museum in neighboring country
• Guided independent work: reading assignments
• Guided independent work: individual visits to exhibitions or museums relating to the content of some of the sessions
* The image presentations of all classes are put on Ufora.
* Class recordings are not provided.

Study material

None

References

• Jonathan Harris, Art History: The Key Concepts, (London: Routledge, 2006).
• Hal Foster, Rosalind Krauss, Yve-Alain Bois, Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, *Art Since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2004).
• Charles Harrison & Paul Wood (eds), *Art in Theory 1900-2000: An Anthology of Changing Ideas* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002).

Course content-related study coaching

Individual guidance possible

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- written exam (in January or August): testing of insights and knowledge of the course based on the lecture course
- participation in excursion
The exams are held in Dutch.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: written exam: 100%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy