

Survey of the Visual Arts: 1789 until today (A005320)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

excursion

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Sterckx, Marjan

LW17

lecturer-in-charge

Jacobs, Steven

LW17

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

crdts

6

offering

A

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject Archaeology\)](#)

6

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

6

A

[Elective Set Art Studies](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Visual arts, overview, chronological, art movements, -isms, 18th century, 19th century, 20th century, artistic development

Position of the course

This course follows "Overview of the Visual Arts: 1300-1789". It is an introductory course.

Contents

Chronological survey of Western art history from the late eighteenth century until today focusing on art movements or currents, of which the main characteristics, artists and artworks are discussed. Attention is also devoted to the social context of works of art, their reception, and some crucial theoretical debates on art since the late eighteenth century are touched upon.

Initial competences

- Reading skills in English and French
- Basic knowledge of the Western history of the 19th and 20th centuries

Final competences

- 1 Show insight into the general development of Western art history from the late 18th century to the present
- 2 Being able to understand and interpret the dialectic of artistic movements and phenomena
- 3 Being able to define and consider critically art movements of the 19th and 20th centuries
- 4 Being able to interpret as well as to situate the artists and artworks in their cultural and social contexts
- 5 Being able to identify and analyze formally artworks discussed in the course
- 6 Being able to compare artworks in terms of form and content in a meaningful way
- 7 Show insight into key concepts such as modernity, modernism, avant-garde and

post-modernism

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures: richly illustrated with visual materials; students have to take notes (Video lectures will be made available for those unable to attend; distribution of this material in any form whatsoever is prohibited)
- Seminar: guided exercises based on learning material (lectures, video-lectures and reader)
- Excursion: obligatory visit, independently and in group, of some exhibitions and/or museum collections related to the content of the course

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Hal Foster, Rosalind Krauss, Yve-Alain Bois & Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, Art Since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism
Indicative price: € 65
Optional: yes
Language : English
Author : Hal Foster, Rosalind Krauss, Yve-Alain Bois & Benjamin H.D. Buchloh
ISBN : 978-0-50023-953-7
Number of Pages : 896
Oldest Usable Edition : 2004
Available in the Library : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
Additional information: Also used in the Modern and Contemporary Art course unit.

Type: Handbook

Name: Hugh Honour & John Fleming, The World of Art
Indicative price: € 80
Optional: yes
Language : Dutch
Author : Hugh Honour and John Fleming
ISBN : 978-9-02908-517-5
Number of Pages : 984
Oldest Usable Edition : 2010
Available in the Library : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
Additional information: This handbook is also used in Survey of Fine Art: 1300-1789.

Type: Syllabus

Name: Overzicht Beeldende Kunst: 1789-heden: ppt-syllabus
Indicative price: € 52
Optional: yes
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 462
Oldest Usable Edition : 2023
Available on Ufora : Yes
Available through Student Association : Yes
Additional information: The handouts of the lectures and the reader texts are offered digitally on Ufora. They are also printed in colour and offered bundled as a ppt-syllabus via Academia Press. Purchase of the printed version is optional.

References

- Hugh Honour & John Fleming, *Algemene kunstgeschiedenis* (Amsterdam: Meulenhoff, 2010)
- Hal Foster, Rosalind Krauss, Yve-Alain Bois & Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, *Art Since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2004).
- Facos, Michelle, *An Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Art* (London: Routledge, 2011).
- Harrison, Charles, Paul Wood & Jason Gaiger (eds), *Art in Theory 1815-1900: An Anthology of Changing Ideas* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2005).
- Harrison, Charles & Paul Wood (eds), *Art in Theory 1900-2000: An Anthology of Changing Ideas* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2002).

Course content-related study coaching

Possibility to ask questions during, before and after the lessons.
During the seminars, students train for the exam.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with a mix of open questions, knowledge questions and image questions, in which insight and knowledge of the subject matter is tested as well as the ability to use the trained skills independently.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% written examen

Facilities for Working Students

1. Absences are allowed
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours.

More info: <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuden>