

SYLLABUS: ARTH 2300-01: Why Art? An Introduction to Art Theory.

Fall 2008, MWF, 8-8:50a, Centrum 229. Instructor: Andrew Marvick. email: marvick@suu.edu; tel.: (435) 586-7962. Office: Emma Eccles Jones Education Building, Room 314; office hrs: MW10a-12n.

Course topics:

Section I: Monday, August 25 - Wednesday, September 10. BEAUTY? Ancient Greek art theory. Art for Art's

Sake and Formalism: Whistler, Pater and Aesthetic theory. Roger Fry and Formalism: Mondrian, De Stijl and the

Purist art of Le Corbusier; the revival of aestheticism. Humility before the object: Sydney Freedberg and stylistic analysis.

Review and Group Presentation: Friday, September 12.

Test date: Monday, September 15.

Section II: Wednesday, September 17 - Monday, September 29. READING THE IMAGE. Rome; Winckelmann;

Irwin Panofsky and Iconography; and Social Art History: Arnold Hauser and the social(ist) art historical method.

Malevich vs. Social Realism in Soviet Russia; the fascist art theory of Albert Speer; The Nazis' "Degenerate Art"

and the tragedy of Emil Nolde; sentiment vs. sentimentality: "kitsch" and taste in art.

Review and Group Presentation: Wednesday, October 1.

Test date: Friday, October 3.

Section III: Monday, October 6 - Friday, October 17. ART AND THE MIND. Freud -- dreams and symbols

Dalí and Magritte: the Surrealist response to psychoanalytic theory. Integrated arts theory and the synaesthesia of

Scriabin; Corot, Bouguereau, Rockwell, Koonz and Curran. Art as idea, and existentialism: Sartre, and conceptualism

in art: looking back on Duchamp's *Fountain*; Kosuth, Baldassari, Yves Klein's "void" and Piero Manzoni's "line":

existentialist art in practice.

Review and Group Presentation, AND paper due: Wednesday, October 22.

Test date: Friday, October 24.

Section IV: Monday, October 27 - Friday, November 7. ART FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

Feminist art theory: the

idea of the gaze; definitions of femininities and masculinities in art; Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger and Jenny Holzer.

Exalting the ordinary, and definitions of the real in art: Courbet, Cornell, Cage, Warhol's *Marilyn*, Rauschenberg's

Bed, Richter and Fritsch; Richard Estes and Rafaella Spence vs. Jacob Collins and Steven Levin.

The Turner Prize.

Review and Group Presentation: Monday, November 10.

Test date: Wednesday, November 12.

Section V: Friday, November 14 - Monday, December 1. DISSENT AND ALTERNATIVE:

The Futurists; dada: speed and chaos

in art and the rejection of the concept of beauty (Boccioni, Duchamp, Arp, Schwitters). 2.

Heidegger, Malraux, Benjamin: the viewer's

responsibility, the museum without walls, the aura of the object. 3. Mondrian, Kandinsky,

Chagall: the spiritual psyche in

practice. 4. Comprehensive art and spirituality: Nietzsche, Wagner and the *Gesamtkunstwerk*.

Review and Group Presentation: Wednesday, December 3..

Test date, due date for 2nd paper, and final day of class: Friday, December 5.