Artists and Leaders

Art 279-02/Leadership
Spring 2003
Monday/Wednesday 9:45-11:00 – JPSN 102

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Required Text:


Additional reference materials (books and articles) will be put on reserve in BLIB. Handouts will be given throughout the semester listing primary and secondary sources relevant to the works in question.

Course Objectives:

This interdisciplinary course is designed to explore relationships between artists and leaders that have existed from the Renaissance to the present day. During this time artists have given us vivid impressions of leaders who have influenced their lives and thus the work they have created. Our course will allow students to approach, within this time-frame, the dynamic and often challenging relationships that existed between artists and leaders. And by understanding these complex relationships, we may deepen our insights into the contexts that shaped leaders, artists, and the cultural period in which they functioned. This does not mean that we will be seeking to fit artists and leaders into a unified vision of a period in history. While we may find and trace recurring concerns and themes, we will pay just as much attention to the tensions and contradictions that are often inherent within any cultural period.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance is required. Absences will lower your participation grade.
2. There will be a midterm in class on February 19th.
3. A short paper, (5 pgs.) based upon a museum visit will be due before mid semester.
4. A final research paper, (ca. 10-15 pgs.) will be due at the end of the semester on a topic approved by the faculty of the course.
5. There will also be required student presentations in class during the last three session of the class, April 9, 14 and 16.
6. There will be a take-home research final exam, under the honor pledge, due at the end of the semester. Grading: Short paper–10%; Participation-10%; Midterm-20%; Final Exam-30%; Research Paper-30%.
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEEK ONE.

Jan. 6.  Introduction to the course. Case studies of three major themes relating to artists and leaders:

- Relationship of leadership to the history of art: examples of good and inspiring leadership (Florence in the Renaissance, E. C. Robins at UR); examples of poor leadership which engendered disillusionment and highly critical and even cynical expressions in art (Goya, Dix, Picasso).

Reading: Text, chapter 16, pgs. 478-521.


- Works of art that function as leaders:


- Artists as leaders:


Jan. 8.  Trip to view Portraits of the Presidents from the National Portrait Gallery on exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society.
WEEK TWO.
Jan. 13. Leadership and art in the early Renaissance: Duecento (13th) and Trecento (14th century)


Jan. 15. Leadership and art in the Quattrocento (15th century)

*St. Mark*. Donatello. 1411-1416. Commissioned by the linen weavers and peddlers. Reading: Text, pgs. 484-488.

*Tribute Money*. Masaccio. 1420s. Brancacci Chapel, Florence. Related to the Florentine income tax, the Catasto. Reading: Text, pgs. 489-492.


WEEK THREE.
Jan. 20 & 22. Continuation of Leadership and art into the Sixteenth century:

Popes Sixtus IV (Sistine Chapel), Alexander VI (Savonarola), Julius II and the High Renaissance: Raphael, and Michelangelo. Reading: Text, pgs. 524-551.

Charles Vth, Holy Roman Emperor (Sack of Rome, 1527).

Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation and the Peasant Revolt of ca. 1525. Works by Durer, and Cranach. Reading: Text, pgs. 578-592.

Philip II of Spain - Spain and the Netherlands (Bruegel the Elder). Reading: Text, pgs. 599-605.

Popes Paul III (Councils of Trent and the Jesuits-beginning of the Catholic Counter Reformation); Paul IV (Reign of Terror in Rome and the late works of Michelangelo). Reading: Text, pgs. 546-551; 561-575.

WEEK FOUR.

Jan. 27 & 29. The Baroque:

Catholic Reformation in Rome (Bernini, and others), Spain (El Greco, Ribera, Murillo), Flanders (Rubens). Reading: Text, pgs. 608-636.


Baroque music with Jennifer Cable, UR Music Department.

WEEK FIVE.

Feb. 3 & 5. The Enlightenment, Science and the Industrial Revolution and the development of the Modern World with new forms of government:


Antoine-Jean Gros and David and the myth of Napoleon. Reading: Text, pgs. 694; 701. Read also, article in the September 14, 2002 New York Times, “Baltic Soil Yields Evidence of a Bitter End to Napoleon’s Army.”
WEEK SIX.
Feb. 10 & 12. Problems of leadership in the Nineteenth Century:

Gericault and the restored Bourbon Monarchy (Louis XVIII) after Napoleon. Reading: Text, pgs. 709-711.

Daumier and Courbet and the conditions of the working class. Reading: Text, pgs. 732-737.


Meissonier, Courbet, Manet, Marx, and the prolitariat revolutions of 1848 and the downfall of Louis-Philippe. Reading: Text, pg. 737. Other readings: TBA.


WEEK SEVEN

WEEK EIGHT

Books and film documentaries:

Other readings: TBA
Wiesel, Elie. Night.
Film documentaries:
Lena Reifenstahl documentary, “Olympia”.
Hitler’s propaganda film, “Triumph of the Will.”
“Night and Fog”

SPRING BREAK
March 2 thru March 9.

WEEK NINE
Mar 10 and 12. Art controlled by Leaders:

Trent; the trial of Paolo Veronese, 1571.

Crypto Lutheranism in the 16th century: Michelangeo and Bruegel.

French Academy in the Nineteenth Century.

Hitler and the entartete Kunst (Degenerate art exhibitions) mounted in 1937, and the fate of the avant-garde in Nazi Germany. Reading: Text, pg. 837. Other readings: TBA.

WEEK TEN
Mar 17 & 19. Artists as leaders: themes of war, slavery and the city: artistic responses to moral outrages. See Gardner text for information on these issues. Other readings: TBA.

Slavery in the 19th and 20th centuries: Turner, O’Sullivan, Picasso and others. Readings: TBA.

Picasso and the colonial exploitation of Africa; Les Demoiselles d’Avignon, 1907. Reading: Text, pg. 794.


German Expressionism in the wake of World War I: Neue Sachlichkeit (New Objectivity): Geore Grosz, Otto Dix, Max Beckmann, Kathe Kollwitz. Reading: Text, pgs. 814-819.

Dada as a response to World War I: Duchamp, Picabia, Schwitters. Reading: Text, pgs. 804-808.

WEEK ELEVEN
Mar 24 & 26. Artists as leaders: life in the city:

Works by Fernand Leger, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Hoper, Andy Warhole. Readings: Terxt, pgs. 801-802; 809-810; 848; 877. Other readings: TBA.

Issues of contemporary architecture. Readings: TBA.

WEEK TWELVE
Mar 31 & Apr 2. Where is art today. . .

Donald Kuspit and other art critics. . .
Today’s Museum Culture: guest lecture by Richard Waller, Executive Director of Galleries and Museums, UR. Readings: TBA.

WEEK THIRTEEN
Apr 7 & Apr 9. Student presentations and discussions.

WEEK FOURTEEN
Apr 14 & Apr 16. Student presentations and discussion, and review for final take-home exam. All papers due April 16.