

Beth S. Gersh-Nesic, Ph.D.
ARH 3455 Impressionism
Purchase College
Winter 2013 – online
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Syllabus for Impressionism - Winter 2013

Calendar

- January 2 - Introduction to the course; The Academy
Read: “*What is Impressionism?*” on About.com: Art History
Read: Charles Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life.”
- January 3- Prelude to Impressionism: Courbet and Realism
Read: *The Judgment of Paris*
- January 4 - Manet. Films on Manet and a Ross King lecture
- January 7 - Degas Film: *The Impressionists*
- January 8 - Monet Film: *The Impressionists*
- January 9 - Renoir. Film: *The Impressionists* **[Finish Ross this weekend]**
- January 10- Pissarro . Film: *The Impressionists*.
Read: *Impressionism* by R. Herbert
- January 11 - Sisley, Guillaumin, Caillebotte. **Proposals for papers due
Ross King Exam opens January 12 – Closes January 18**
- January 14 - Impressionist Women Artists.
Video lecture: Impressionism and Fashion
- January 15 - Auguste Rodin and Camille Claudel – Impressionist sculptors
- January 16 - Seurat, Signac, and the other Neo-Impressionists
- January 17- Cézanne
- January 18- Van Gogh -- Film: *60 minutes on VVG* and more **First drafts due**
- ID exam and True and False exam on *The Impressionists* video and Herbert book opens January 18 – Closes January 22**
- January 21 - Gauguin -- **Papers returned**
- January 22 - Share papers. **ID quiz and polished papers due**

Required Books:

- Robert Herbert, *Impressionism: Art, Leisure and Parisian Society* (Yale, 1988).
- Ross King, *Judgment of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade that Gave the World Impressionism* (Random House, 2006).

Required DVD:

- The Impressionists* by A & E (2001)

Course Description:

This course is about the study of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism in France. Lectures begin with the Academic Tradition (in order to set the stage for the Impressionists rebellion) and cover the Modernist precursors Courbet and Manet, before launching into the core group members: Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, Gustave Caillebotte, Berthe Morisot, etc. Auguste Rodin and Camille Claudel will be introduced as the sculptural form of Impressionism. Music by Debussy and Ravel will be introduced as the corollary expression in music. Post-Impressionists George Seurat and his Neo-Impressionist followers, Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh and Paul Gauguin will be included because they exhibited with the Impressionists, or, in the case of van Gogh, met the Impressionists and became a willing follower for a time.

Course Objective:

This survey of Impressionism will focus on the core group in France in order to establish a clear understanding of the core movement. Students are welcome to research Impressionists outside of this core group for their research papers. I welcome research papers on the American and other European Impressionists so that this information may be shared with the class.

Course Structure:

- Read the Ross King book *The Judgment of Paris*, completely, by January 13. It's about 400 pages.
- Read the Robert Herbert book *Impressionism*, completely, by January 18. It's less than 400 pages.
- View the video *The Impressionists* by January 18.
- View all the videos posted from YouTube, Smarthistory, etc.
- Look for videos on YouTube that you would like to share with the class.
- Post your response on the daily discussion blog.
- Submit your response to the daily ID.
- Take exams
- Submit a proposal for your paper **by January 11**
- Write a first draft for your research paper **by January 18**
- Submit polished paper by **January 22**

The entire course exercises three major aspects of art history training:

- Recognition of major art works: artist, title, date, style.
- Keen visual analysis
- Connecting visual analysis to context and artistic intention (conscious or unconscious) mediated by different influences (political, personal, cultural, etc.)

Your paper should demonstrate your ability to select appropriate

methodologies for understanding the artist you decided to research and present to the class.

We will practice these methodologies on the daily discussion blog

Art history methodologies:

- Formal attributes of a work of art or a building, using appropriate vocabulary.
- Knowledge of narrative content, such as stories, history, biographies.
- Historical context
- Iconography and iconology
- Investigating material culture
- Deciphering psychological strategies.
- Recognizing class consciousness.
- Investigating economic influences, such as patronage, collecting and national economic support
- “Reception theory”
- Politically/culturally mediated methodologies (such as feminism, essentialism, gay/lesbian reception and semiotics)

Goal of the Course:

We will explore and attempt to understand

- what is meant by the words modernism, modernity, and “Impressionism”:
- Impressionism as a technique
- Impressionism as a movement
- Impressionism as an idea
- Impressionism as a generative force for Post-Impressionism
- Impressionism as a major force at the beginning of Modernism

Outcomes:

At the end of the course we should be able to:

- discuss the role of the French Academy of Fine Arts in the 19th century.
- discuss the rules and politics of the Academy and how Manet broke the rules while Meissonier followed them – and yet both artists worried about their reputations in the eyes of France (hence the title *The Judgment of Paris*, also an allusion to the myth in classical literature).
- discuss why Manet did not consider himself an Impressionist while the Impressionists considered him their leader.
- identify each Impressionist’s personality through his/her style
- know the history of the Impressionist movement
- understand the concept of Modernism in the 19th and 20th centuries
- understand and explain the revolutionary aspects of the Impressionist movement

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- know all the Impressionists as individuals and remember their names
- know which Post-Impressionists exhibited with the Impressionists.
- recognize the names of outstanding art historians who have contributed scholarship on Impressionism
- discuss one Impressionist who was not included in *The Impressionists* film.

Assessment and Grading:

- Attendance/Posting and daily ID– 25%
- Ross King book exam – 25%
- Final ID exam and True/False exam on Impressionism – 25%
- Research paper – 25%

Moodle – your course website:

- Information about the course and helpful articles will be available on Moodle. Look for resources and assignments.
- This syllabus is posted on Moodle
- Powerpoints are posted on their respective Moodle modules
- Links to sources and information are posted on the appropriate Moodle module
- Announcements will be generated from “news” on Moodle and will arrive in your email. Please check your Purchase email account everyday.
- **Daily discussion posts must be completed on Moodle by 8 am the following day.**
- **Quizzes must be completed on Moodle**
- **Proposal and papers must be submitted on Moodle assignment box and submitted to my email address (2 copies) as an attachment:**
beth.gersh-nesic@purchase.edu

Research Paper:

The purpose of the research paper is to give you an opportunity to think through the specific aspects of Impressionism discussed in class discussions online and to demonstrate good written expression, research techniques and citation of sources. ***Please include footnotes. Don't plagiarize.***

What is Plagiarism?

Academic Integrity Policy should be linked to:

<http://www.purchase.edu/Policies/academicintegrity.aspx>

Plagiarism is stealing. Plagiarism occurs when the writer claims that the ideas, words, or concepts submitted under his or her name originated in the brain of the student submitting the paper. Most ideas belong to someone else. You must cite all the information you have learned from other sources. Your opinions or

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evaluations of the sources you have drawn upon may be original, but the ideas you have encountered belong to the authors who researched the art/artist and formulated the theories. Respect them and give them credit for their efforts. Information, writing, theories, etc. Without citations of the information that belongs to other authors, your work will be considered plagiarism.

Plagiarism will result in an F.

Paper topics Choose one of these two:

Compare and contrast one Impressionist and one Post-Impressionist.

Choose three examples for each artist, preferably from his/her early, middle and late career. Describe the works of art thoroughly. Look for information about iconography in books, articles and **the museum websites**.

Then compare and contrast the Impressionist's works to the Post-Impressionist's work.

What is paramount in this exercise should be the demonstration of your ability to discuss Impressionism as a movement and two individual artists who participated in the movement, using notes from lectures, films, articles and books assigned to the class, plus books, articles, online resources, films and etc. you found on your own.

- **Analyze 3 examples by each artist**, using at least two methods covered in class.
- Enlist at least 4 sources (minimum: one book, two websites and one article).
- At least 10 pages, but no more than 20.
- Be mindful of your sources' points of view: present them, synthesize your findings and then try to arrive at an original interpretation of the evidence.
- Demonstrate your ability to use the art history methods discussed and practiced in the daily posts.
- **Be sure to focus on the art** – a short biography of one or two paragraphs is sufficient. Please do not write a biography that refers in passing to the works of art.
- **The paper should reflect your ability to analyze a work of art, a group of works by one artist and the oeuvres of two different artists.**

Or create your own project – please write to me about your idea as soon as possible.

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(Instructions on how to write an art history paper can be found in the first module for this course.)

Grading the Papers:

Your grades will be based on handing in a proposal, a first draft, and a final polished paper.

Failure to hand in the proposal, first draft and polished papers (all 3 parts) will result in an “F” for the **entire** assignment.

Recommended Books:

Richard Brettell, *Impressionism: Painting Quickly in France, 1860-1890*.
Hollis Clayson, *Paris in Depair: Art and Everyday Life, 1870-71* (Chicago, 2002).
Bradford Collins, ed. *Twelve Views of Manet's Bar* (Princeton, 1996).
Bernard Denvir, *The Chronicle of Impressionism* (Bulfinch, 1993).
John G. Hutton, *Neo-Impressionism and the Search for Solid Ground*
(Louisiana State U. Press, 1994).
John Rewald, *Impressionism*, revised (Museum of Modern Art, 1987).
John Rewald, *Post-Impressionism* (Museum of Modern Art, 1978).
Jane M. Roos, *Early Impressionism and the French State*, 1996.
Meyer Schapiro, *Impressionism: Reflections and Perceptions* (Braziller, 1997).
Paul Smith, *Impressionism: Beneath the Surface* (Abrams, 1995).
Belinda Thomson, *Impressionism: Origins, Practice and Reception*
(Thames and Hudson, 2000).
A monographs on Impressionists and Post-Impressionists.

Daily Discussion Responses:

You must respond to the daily discussion. I welcome your research on the internet that delves into topics beyond the books and video so that more information is brought to the class's attention. Try to be ambitious and energetic in your search for more information. Ask questions and consider other ways to analyze these works of art. Only kind emoticons will be accepted.



Grading:

- A – Appealing: Sound understanding of the method; not less than 100 words. No more than 5 typos. Plus a substantive response to one classmate, 25 words at least.
- B – Banal: Weak understanding of the method or less than 100 words or full of typos. Plus a substantive response to one classmate, 25 words at least.
- C – Careless: Little understanding of the method or less than 50 or poorly written.
- D – Disappointing: Little understanding of the method or no effort put into the writing.
- F – Forgettable. Sloppy, texting usage, many typos, failure to capitalize, failure to punctuate properly, poorly written or a superficial response. Or disrespectful to your fellow classmates.

"NETIQUETTE" GUIDELINES—Students must:

- Communicate respectfully.
- Provide constructive and relevant feedback to peers.
- Be clear, use standard English, and do not abbreviate. Spell-check, revise, and edit before posting. Use appropriate subject headers.
- Be polite and careful. Do not use all UPPERCASE LETTERS or multiple exclamation marks, as they are difficult to read and sometimes it is difficult to understand the tone of the message.
- Avoid sarcasm and irony, which can be misinterpreted by readers.
- Be inclusive: send group messages to all members of the class and the instructor.

Exams:

- Short-answer Exam on *The Judgment of Paris*
- Two True and False quizzes on *The Impressionists* video and Robert Herbert's book *Impressionism*.
- ID Exam – identify artist, title and date

Attendance:

Posts represent your attendance each day. Missing two or more posts will seriously compromise your grade. Missing more than 3 posts will result in 5 less points as I calculate your grade. **Missing 5 or more classes will result in an F.**

STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO:

- Spend a minimum of 40 hours per week dedicated to this online course (per day: 2 hours reading the book or pursuing research for the paper, 2 hours writing, and 1 hour watching the video.
- Submit assignments **by 8 am the day after** the discussion of the day is opened.
- Thoughtfully participate in discussions – look up information online, in books, in museums, etc.
- Understand that online courses are just as rigorous as face-to-face courses
- Obey the [Purchase College Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- Keep in daily contact with the class and the professor
- Manage your time efficiently
- Ask questions if you do not understand
- Be prepared to work independently

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Please review the following:

Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://www.purchase.edu/Policies/academicintegrity.aspx>

ADA compliance: Documented Disabilities

Students with documented physical, learning, psychological and other disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations. If a student needs accommodations, he or she must first register with the Office of Special Student Services; please call 914-251-6390; or email accommodations@purchase.edu

You can find a description of special student services provided by the Counseling Center at: <http://www.purchase.edu/Departments/SpecialStudentServices/>

Moodle is ADA compliant; you can find the accessibility specification for Moodle at: http://docs.moodle.org/en/Moodle_Accessibility_Specification

NB: Impressionism fulfills an Arts requirement in the Liberal Studies curriculum.

According to the curriculum standards, courses in the THE ARTS require that students demonstrate an understanding of at least one principal form of artistic expression and the creative process inherent therein.