# History of Contemporary Art (Bachelor’s Degree; Master’s Degree; DAMS)

## Prof. Elena Di Raddo

# Contemporary Art History Workshop: art projects and ideas ( DAMS course)

Dr. Mariacristina Maccarinelli

**Prof. Elena Raddo (Literature and DAMS)**

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with a critical historical method for studying the history of contemporary art and the tools related to interpreting and analysing works. The aim is therefore to introduce students to a general understanding of the artistic phenomenon, from Romanticism to new trends in contemporary art. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognise the stylistic aspects and expressive characteristics of the main movements, trends and artistic personalities, and contextualise them historically and culturally. They will also be able to read and comment on the main works of art of the 20th century, from both a stylistic and historical point of view. They will have the tools to carry out autonomous research.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course lasts 60 hours (12 ECTS credits) and is divided into two modules. The first is general in nature, whilst the second has a single-subject focus.

1. INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY ART HISTORY

The course offers a brief historical overview through the analysis of themes and the reading of the works that represent the most important milestones in the history of art from Post-Impressionism and Novecento, up to the most current trends. There will be a particular focus on defining the concepts of “modernity” through an in-depth exploration of the historical avant-garde movements and their developments in the contemporary age.

The course will then interpret, critically and iconographically, just a few of the prominent movements of the late 19th century, the 20th century and the early-21st century.

2. *ART, ENVIRONMENT, TERRITORY*

The course will focus on the connection of art with the environment, considered both as a social environment and as a natural environment. The historical and theoretical premises of this aspect of artistic research will be analysed, and the works of those artists who have placed the environmental theme at the centre of their work from the 1970s to the present day will be examined in depth.

***READING LIST***

To acquire knowledge of the topics related to Module 1:

P. De Vecchi - E. Cerchiari, *Arte nel Tempo. Dall’Illuminismo al Postmoderno,* Bompiani, any edition

Students on the MASTER’S course:

F. Poli, ed. by, *Arte Moderna; dal Postimpressionismo all’Informale*, Mondadori Electa, 2007;

F. Poli, ed. by, *Arte Contemporanea, Le ricerche internazionali dalla fine anni Cinquanta ad oggi*, Mondadori Electa, 2005

**For the single-subject part:**

Details of reading material will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures with commentary on projected images. Use of the online Blackboard platform to supplement lectures. Supervised visits to exhibitions and museums and meetings with artists.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

To demonstrate that they have achieved the course targets, students will sit an examination on recognising and analysing one or more of the works of art studied in lectures.

This test may take the form of a written examination to be scheduled at the end of Semester 1 before the official exam session. The written exam, on the topics covered in lectures and in the course textbook, will be based on open questions, recognising reproduced works and comparing artworks and artistic movements.

To complete the assessment, students must also sit a final oral exam at the end of the course during the official exam dates on the single-subject part.

Each part of the course (that is to say, the general and the single-subject course) will determine 50% of the final mark, that be givent from the average between them.

Students can also sit the exam for both parts in oral format during the exam sessions on the single-subject part, either on the same date or on different dates.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This course, intended for DAMS students, also includes a Workshop on Contemporary Art History.

The course has no not specific prerequisites.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The workshop is practical in nature and aims to introduce students to the potential professional roles associated with the "Art System". Particularly central to the course are the activities associated with a series of meetings with art professionals and especially with artists. The workshop also includes educational visits and practical sessions.

By the end of the course, students will be able to: describe the characteristics of the various professions covered on the course; demonstrate working knowledge of the activities proposed; understand and analyse the various aspects of an artistic project; conduct a written or video interview; draw up a project for an exhibition or an art event.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Introduction to the contemporary art system.

2. Meetings with professionals/artists

3. Supervised visits to galleries and exhibitions.

4. Practical writing sessions (interviews) / Producing video interviews.

5. Planning of exhibitions and events.

***READING LIST***

Details of further reading material on the artists in question will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class and offsite; supervised practical activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Student active participation and written texts will be assessed as a whole. The assessment criteria are as follows: relevance of students’ oral and written contributions in lectures and their use of the skills and tools acquired in lectures.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is a workshop-based course, there are no prerequisites terms of content. Students are nevertheless expected to demonstrate and interest in and intellectual curiosity about activities proposed.

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