# History of Contemporary Art

## Prof. Elena Di Raddo

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

The course aims to provide students with a historical and critical methodology to study the history of contemporary art, as well as read and analyse the different works of art. In particular, it will explore the artistic phenomenon during the 20th century, and the new trends of contemporary art, from the point of view of the “art system”. At the end of the course, students will be able to identify the stylistic and expressive aspects of the main artistic movements, trends, and personalities, also considering their historical and cultural background. Furthermore, students will be able to interpret and comment the most important works of art of the 20th century, both from a stylistic and historical perspective. Finally, they will get familiar with the main mechanisms that contribute to the definition of the artistic and commercial value of a work of art.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will analyse specific topics from a historical perspective, and interpret the most significant works of art from Post-Impressionism to the present day. In particular, it will introduce and define the concept of “modernity” through the study of the historical avant-garde movements, as well as its contemporary evolution.

However, the course will not be able to cover the plurality of movements and artists of this long historical period, so students are invited to study the additional material indicated in the reading list. In fact, the course will cover only some of the most important trends from the end of the 19th century to the present day, highlighting their relationship with the emerging “contemporary art system” (galleries, museums, criticism, and collecting); this will be done thanks to the critical analysis and the iconographic reading of the works of art. Finally, students will have the opportunity to meet subject matter experts that will help them identify the most important factors in terms of communication, study, and promotion of contemporary art and artists.

***READING LIST***

G. Dorfles-A. Vettese, *Artisti opere e temi. Arte 3 – dal Postimpressionismo ad oggi,* Atlas editore.

F. Poli, *Il sistema dell'arte contemporanea,* Editori Laterza, Rome-Bari, 2011.

Further material will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, with the projection of visual material. Use of Blackboard. Guided visits to exhibitions and museums.

Some of the lectures on the subject “Between artistic creation and entrepreneurship” will be held by subject matter experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written exam, in which students will be asked to recognise, analyse, and contextualise one (or more) of the works of art presented in class.

It will be scheduled at the end of the course, and followed by an oral test on the textbok by F. Poli. The written exam consists of open-ended questions asking students to recognise art reproductions and compare works of art and artistic movements.

Students will have to take the oral exam on the textbook by F. Poli during the official exam sessions. This will allow them to get up to 2 points to increase the final mark.

*Students can also decide to be tested on both parts of the programme during the oral exam; this can be done on the same day or in two different occasions.*

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should ideally show a certain curiosity towards the subject, and have a basic knowledge of the history of contemporary art.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.