



SELF PROGRAM 2022/2023

FRENCH SPECULATIVE THINKERS AND ARTISTS

Michael Fodor

Course information

Number of credits: 6 credits

Contact hours: 30 hours

Hours taught per week: 2.5 hours

Teaching period: fall semester 2022

Course description:

This course will pair up nine French speculative thinkers and nine French artists starting with the 16th century, ending with the 21st. The pairs will be: Montaigne - Jacques Callot; Descartes - Claude Lorrain; Pascal - Philippe de Champaigne; Voltaire - François Boucher; Rousseau - Jacques Louis David; Baudelaire - Eugene Delacroix; Proudhon - Gustave Courbet; Simone

de Beauvoir - Niki de Saint Phalle; Latour- Miguel Chevalier. The students will come away with a panoramic view of French thought and painting over five centuries. The thinkers (30-50 pages for each thinker) will be read in English translation and will be available on Moodle. For each class, a group of students will do a presentation of an art work by the week's artist (selected by the professor).

The schedule of thinkers and artists is:

Montaigne - Jacques Callot

Descartes - Claude Lorrain

Pascal - Philippe de Champaigne

Voltaire - François Boucher

Rousseau - Jacques Louis David

Baudelaire - Eugene Delacroix

Proudhon - Gustave Courbet;

Simone de Beauvoir - Niki de Saint Phalle

Latour - Miguel Chevalier.

Prerequisites:

None

Course objectives:

- 1) to familiarize the students with major thinkers in French history.
- 2) to familiarize the students with major artists in French history
- 3) to invite students to compare philosophical and artistic work of the same period and thereby refine their understanding of the period and of French culture in general.
- 4) to improve the students' skills in analyzing and presenting art works

Assessment:

15%: group art work presentation

10%: First Moodle Quiz

15%: Second Moodle Quiz

60% : final in class written exam (short questions and composition)

-short questions (thinkers and artists)

-quote identification (thinkers)

-essay

Attendance:

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed; otherwise no mark will be given. An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.

Bibliography:

The anthologies will be prepared by the professor and made available on Moodle. The translations will be from the public domain or by the professor.

On French philosophy

Stephen Gaukroger, *French Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2020

Anthony Gottlieb, *The Dream of Enlightenment: The Rise of Modern Philosophy*, Penguin, 2016

Anthony Kenny, *A New History of Western Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 2012

Hasssan Melehy, *Writing Cogito: Montaigne, Descartes, and the Institution of the Modern Subject*, SUNY Press, 1997

Alan Schrift, *Twentieth-Century French Philosophy: Key Themes and Thinkers*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2008

On French art

Christopher Allen, *French Painting in the Golden Age*, Thames and Hudson, 2003

Francis Frascina, *Modernity and Modernism: French Painting in the Nineteenth Century*, Open University, 1993

C. Green, *Art in France, 1900-1940*, Yale University Press 2000

Valentin Grivet, *French Painting 1100-1830*, Koenemann, 2019

Valentin Grivet, *French Painting 1830-1920*, Koenemann, 2019