



# Short Syllabus

## Course Title

Philosophical Perspectives on Modern Art

## Lecturer

Dr. Alma Itzhaky

## Contact details

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## Semester

Fall

## Short Description

Philosophical Perspectives on Modern Art:

Since the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, artist and philosophers have been engaged in an ardent debate about the nature, the limits and the role of art. As the successive revolutions of modern art upended any and all artistic conventions, philosophers and critics were called to rethink basic questions in the philosophy of art: What is a work of art? Who is an artist? What is the nature of aesthetic experience and judgment? What is the role of art in society? New answers to these questions have been – and still are – articulated by artists and theoreticians alike. In this respect, modernism revolutionized not only art, but also philosophy, and how we think about the relations between art and philosophy. The course will be dedicated to some of the major episodes of this ongoing dialogue:

- The Invention of a Medium: medium essentialism, materiality and autonomy  
*Clement Greenberg, Stanley Cavell; abstract painting*
- The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction  
*Walter Benjamin and the Frankfurt School; surrealism, pop art, dada*
- “Art for Art’s Sake” vs. “Art in the Service of the Revolution”  
*Jacques Rancière; Kazimir Malevich*
- Readymade, Conceptual art and the Definition of art  
*Arthur Danto, Thierry de Duve; Marcel Duchamp*
- Cultural Confinement: from Institutional Critique to Relational Aesthetics  
*Nicola Bourriaud, Clair Bishop; Robert Smithson, Hanse Haake, Francis Alÿs*
- The Body in Pieces: Modernism, Body and Gender  
*Linda Nochlin, T. J Clark; Édouard Manet*

## Final grade components

Minor assignments:



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2 short reading assignments: 10%

Midterm:

Essay, 15%

Final requirement:

Final Paper, 1500 words. 60%

Participation:

Active participation in class, 15%

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

### Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

### Additional requirements

Empty box for additional requirements.