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Course title: Art in Germany from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century

Track: D-Track

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 48 (6 per day)

ECTS-Credits: 4

Course description

The course will introduce Berlin's outstanding art collections, with their wide range of masterpieces from late medieval times to the present day. Beyond that, a trip to the nearby city of Magdeburg with its impressive gothic cathedral is intended. We shall focus throughout on the particular circumstances that shaped the production and reception of German art, especially during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. During this long period, the formation of a German nation state and the problematic notion of a German national identity became intimately connected to the question of a German style and artistic 'expression'. A special focus will be given to the "Art of the two Germanys" between 1945 and 1989. We shall explore Germany's vibrant art history by focusing in depth on works by artists like Martin Schongauer and Albrecht Dürer, Caspar David Friedrich, Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Adolph Menzel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Otto Dix, Joseph Beuys and Anselm Kiefer. Visits include the following museums and galleries in Berlin: the Gemäldegalerie, the Bodemuseum, the Kupferstichkabinett (Collection of Drawings and Prints, depending on size of the course), the Nationalgalerie, and the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum.

Student profile

In principle, the course is open to all students regardless of their field of study, but in the first place it addresses art history students. An elementary knowledge of art and art history is advantageous, but not obligatory. More advanced students will benefit from the opportunity to give a paper in class or in the museums and enhance their existing knowledge.

Prerequisites

none

Course Requirements

Regular attendance & active participation, final exam

Grading

Attendance & participation: 60%

Final Exam: 40%

Literature

A course reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Monday, August 2, 2010	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Overview of the content, aims and the logistic parameters of the course: grading, attendance, final exam, visits to museums (excursions)</p> <p>Art and National Identity</p> <p>Excursion: Deutsches Historisches Museum OR Nikolaikirche</p>
Tuesday, August 3, 2010	<p>The Middle Ages and the Gothic Cathedral</p> <p>Excursion: Magdeburg OR Bodemuseum: Sculptures, Ivories, Woodcuts and Altarpieces</p>
Thursday, August 5, 2010	<p>From International Gothic Style to the Northern Renaissance</p> <p>Excursion: Gemäldegalerie I - Altarpieces and panel paintings</p>
Friday, August 6, 2010	<p>Renaissance and Reformation</p> <p>Excursion: Gemäldegalerie II - Dürer, Cranach, Grien, Holbein</p>
Monday, August 9, 2010	<p>The 19th Century I</p> <p>Excursion: Brücke-Museum or Berlinische Galerie</p>
Tuesday, August 10, 2010	<p>The 19th Century II</p> <p>Excursion: Alte Nationalgalerie: Friedrich, Runge, Menzel, Böcklin</p>
Thursday, August 12, 2010	<p>The 20th Century: From the Avantgardes to "Degenerate Art"</p> <p>Excursion: Neue Nationalgalerie or Scharf-Gerstenberg Collection</p>
Friday, August 13, 2010	<p>Final Exam in Class</p>