

NEW-DOCENT TRAINING COURSE

Syllabus* 2014-15

Location: Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Auditorium
Enter through the Staff Entrance on the west side of the building.

Time: September 15, 2014 - February 23, 2015
Mondays, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor: Erin Starr White, Assistant Curator of Education
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*A detailed monthly syllabus will be issued the first class of each month containing reading and writing assignments, as well as lectures and tours of note, and docent orientations. The following is a general guide for the course; specifics may change at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Texts

- Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, *110*
- PDFs - emailed to you weekly and always two weeks in advance of the class for which they are intended

Recommended Text

- Marilyn Stokstad and Michael Cothran, *Art History*, 5th ed. (Prentice Hall; vol. II, 2013).
 - Stokstad is the gold standard for art history survey textbooks. This text is not required, but will be helpful in filling in the art historical gaps that this course, given its duration, must allow. Copies are available on used bookseller websites.

Course Objectives

“A painting is not a picture of an experience; it is an experience.”
Mark Rothko, 1903-1970

“Simplicity is never simple.”
Agnes Martin, 1912-2004

“The most important imperative to be questioned is the one that tells
you to go the art supply store to be a painter.”
Mark Bradford, 1961

Art is a language: how do we understand its meaning(s), its intent, and the conversation we, the viewers, have with it? In this new-docent training course, we explore a wide array of Western art. Our course begins about 1850, in the tumult of great social and political changes of Western Europe, and concludes with global artistic trends of the early 21st century. Throughout the course, we always have an eye on the backbone of your future tours as a Modern docent - the Museum's permanent collection.

While we will begin our survey with the familiar media of painting and sculpture, we will also be looking at photography, performance art, earthworks, conceptual art, installation art, and more. This vast amount of material is organized, both in our textbook and in our class, into both chronological and geographical groupings.

We begin by looking at the canonical and traditional European art of the mid-nineteenth century. By the end of this course, we will be engaging in a dialogue with international art that has, in some ways, broken irrevocably with the past. But of course, there are lingering ties. Throughout the course, we see striking and important changes in the role of the artist, as well as in the function of art. Upon graduating from this course, you will possess a solid framework in the history of modern and contemporary art, upon which you will continue to build as a Modern docent.

- September 15** Introductions
Watch *Making the Modern*
Tour the permanent collection
Lunch in the Education Studio
- September 22** Early Modernism: French Realism to German Expressionism
- Assignment: Follow and analyze a docent-led tour at the Modern
 - Due: October 6
- September 29** 4th Mondays Lecture (10 - 11:30 am)
Lunch in the Studio (11:45 am - 12:45 pm)
- October 6** Cubism and Early Abstraction, The Armory Show, and Art Between the Wars
- Assignment: Formal Analysis paper
 - Due: October 27
- October 13** *No class; Museum closed for Columbus Day holiday*
- October 20** Postwar Art in Europe and Abstract Expressionism in America
- October 27** 4th Mondays - Off-site tour of TCU's Fort Worth Contemporary Arts
(10 - 11:30 am) - no lunch
- November 3** Post-Painterly Abstraction and Neo-Dada

- Assignment: Research Paper
- Due: November 17

- November 10 Pop Art and Nouveau Réalisme
- November 17 Minimalism, Post-minimalism, and Light and Space
- November 24 *No class; Thanksgiving holiday*
- December 1 Conceptual Art, Arte Povera, and Earth Art
- Assignment: Gallery Paper - Context
 - Due: December 15
- December 8 Fluxus, Performance Art, and Institutional Critique
- December 15 The 1980s: The Pictures Generation, Neo-Expressionism, New Image Painting, and Street Art
- December 22 Installation and New Media
- Assignment: Gallery Paper - Pop Art
 - Due: January 12
- December 29 *No class; Museum closed for Christmas holiday*
- January 5 Postmodern Photography, YBAs, and Relational Aesthetics
- January 12 Ando and Modernist Architecture
- Assignment: Gallery Paper - Minimalism & Conceptual Art
 - Due: January 26
- January 19 *No class; Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.*
- January 26 4th Mondays Lecture (10 - 11:30 am)
Lunch in the Studio (11:45 am - 12:45 pm)
- February 2 Tour Techniques (In-class presentations)
- February 9 Tour Techniques (In-class presentations)
- February 16 *No class; President's Day holiday.*
- February 23 4th Mondays Lecture (10 - 11:30 am)
Lunch in the Studio (11:45 am - 12:45 pm)

