What is it you want to know about a work of art? Who made it? What’s it about? When and where was it made? Why was it made? Is it “good” or “bad” art? The questions that you ask, and how you go about finding the answers, lead straight to issues of methodology.

This course will survey the major art historians, the questions they asked (and the answers they proposed), from the “who” of biography and connoisseurship through the “what” of iconography to the “when, where, why” of social history, Marxism and feminism. It will also survey modern criticism in America; and consider contemporary exhibition practice.

The goal of the course is to become familiar with the development of the discipline and practice of art history and its theoretical underpinnings, both in the classroom and in exhibition.

Class format is lecture, discussion and student projects/presentations.

REQUIRED TEXTS for purchase
1) W. Eugene Kleinbauer, MODERN PERSPECTIVES IN WESTERN ART HISTORY
2) Patricia Hills, MODERN ART IN THE USA: ISSUES AND CONTROVERSIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY
3) ART IN AMERICAN (subscription)

RECOMMENDED READINGS on reserve in Reeves Library, and Art News, Artforum, and The New York Times (week-end editions)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
- Students must attend all classes and bring the appropriate required text to each class.
- Three assignments: either short papers (6-8pp) or projects (including oral presentation)
- A field trip to New York City (details to be announced)

Grading: 50% is determined by written work (25% for each paper); 25% by final project; and 25% by class participation and attendance.

Papers: Two short papers, each 5-6 pages in length. Papers are due at the beginning of class; papers handed in at the end of class, or any time after, will be marked down for lateness. Both papers must be completed in order to receive a grade.

Final project includes a 20-minute class presentation.
PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

I. ART HISTORY METHODOLOGY
Week 1: January 16th & 18th
-Introduction
  Kleinbauer, MODERN PERSPECTIVES IN WESTERN ART HISTORY
  (What is Art History, pp 1-12)

Week 2: January 23rd & 25th
-Biography
  Vasari, LIVES OF THE ARTISTS (Giotto, Michaelangelo & 2 personal selections)
-Intrinsic Perspectives I: Connoisseurship
  Kleinbauer . . . (Offner, “GUIDO DA SIENA AND AD 1221)

Week 3: January 30th & February 1st
-Intrinsic Perspectives II: Formalism
  Kleinbauer . . . (Woelfflin, PRINCIPLES OF ART HISTORY)
-Intrinsic Perspectives III: Iconography
  Kleinbauer . . . (Panofsky, JAN VAN EYCK’S ‘ARNOLFINI PORTRAIT’)

Week 4: February 6th & 8th
-Extrinsic Perspectives I: Psychology and Art/ Perception
  Kleinbauer . . . (Gombrich, LIGHT, FORM, AND TEXTURE . . .)
-Extrinsic Perspectives I: Psychology and Art/ Psychoanalysis
  Kleinbauer . . . (Kris, A PSYCHOTIC ARTIST . . .)

Week 5: February 13th & 15th
-Extrinsic Perspectives II: Social and Cultural Art History/ Marxism
  Kleinbauer . . . (Antal, REFLECTIONS ON CLASSICISM AND . . .)
-Extrinsic Perspectives II: Social and Cultural Art History/ Feminism
  Pollock, VISION & DIFFERENCE (selections)

FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE

II. ART CRITICISM
Week 6: February 20th & 22nd Art in America (February issue)
-1940s to Mid-1950s, Hills, ch 4
- TBA

Week 7: February 27th & March 1st Art in America (March issue)
- Greenberg, ART AND CULTURE (selections)
-1955-1967, Hills, ch 5

Week 8: SPRING BREAK

Week 9: March 13th & 15th Artforum
-1968-1980, Hills, ch 6
  Artforum

Week 10: March 20th & 22nd  Art News
- 1980s—1990s, Hills, ch 7 (selections)
- GUEST LECTURER (tentative) Art News

[SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE]

III. EXHIBITION
Week 11: March 27th & 29th  Friday New York Times (Weekend: Fine Arts, Leisure)
- Payne Gallery
- Patronage, Taste and Collecting
  Kleinbauer . . . (Hartt, ART AND FREEDOM . . .)

Week 12: April 3rd & 5th  Friday New York Times
- TRIP TO NYC (tentative)

Week 13: April 10th & 12th  Friday New York Times
- Independent Exhibitions
  Hills, ch 1, pp 32-42 (ARMORY SHOW, INDEPENDENTS SHOW . . .)
- Trip to Third Street Galleries & Zollner Art Center/ Storm King & Dia Beacon

Week 14: Easter Break & April 19th  Friday New York Times
- Trip to Allentown Art Museum

Week 15: April 24th & 26th  Friday New York Times
- Art in Public Spaces, Hills, ch 7, 433-54
- Trip to Kemerer Art Museum

[THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE]

Week 16: EXAM WEEK