

FACULTY OF **ARTS AND LETTERS**

DEGREE COURSE: **FASHION AND DESIGN BA**

**SUBJECT:** HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY ART

**LECTURER:** PAOLO BOLPAGNI

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## **OBJECTIVES**

1. Reach an historical and critical approach to the study of the History of contemporary art, from the mid-19th century French Realism to present time.
2. Develop the necessary skills to analyze and interpret works of contemporary art.
3. Develop the ability to recognize the characteristics of the main art movements, trends and personalities from the mid19th century French Realism to present.
4. Enhance to contextualize artworks and artists in their historical and cultural framework, remarking, in particular, the connection between artists and society.

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## **CONTENTS**

The course is divided into 48 lessons and focuses on the artistic transformations that followed the so-called Industrial Revolution, considering the historical, social and technical implications.

Every lesson is about one or more movements of a decade, always considering that the historical categorizations are the result of a discriminating process.

Together with the study of trends and artistic movements, the course deals with well-known prime examples: extremely interesting artists (who have been able to epitomize entire artistic periods in themselves) or indefinable artists, out of any classification, for example, Pablo Picasso.

Passing through the historical avant-gardes, the course reaches the contemporary period in the strict sense, dealing with the artistic research that is developing the new aesthetic conception, not always corresponding to the concept of "beauty".

The course concludes inspecting the aggressive entrance in the contemporary artistic production of new technologies, trying to demonstrate how techniques and trials are necessary instruments (not aims) to convey artists' ideas.

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## **ASSESSMENT**

Written exam: Multiple choice and open questions.

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## **RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

Hal Foster, Rosalind Krauss, Yve-Alain Bois, Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, *Art since 1900. Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism*, Thames & Hudson, London 2004.

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