EXPRESSIVE CULTURE: IMAGES, spring 2008
Professor Kenneth E. Silver (Preceptors: Ms. Karen Leader and Ms. Jodi Roberts)
Department of Art History

Syllabus and assignments
G = chapters to read in Gombrich

1/22: Beginning at home: Washington Square--urbanism and the art world
1/24: What do we mean by art, and how do we use it? G: Introduction
1/29: Classicism and standards of beauty G: 3, 4, 5,
2/31: Classicism and standards of beauty
2/5, 2/7 Mind and heart: line and color G: 16
[1st paper assigned: 2/5]
2/12, 2/14, 2/19: Art and time: periodization, legitimacy, revivals, conservatives and avant-gardists
[1st paper due: 2/12] G: 28
2/19: Art and faith: idols, surrogates, narratives, prohibitions, iconoclasm, transcendence
G: 8, 9, 10 [2nd paper assigned: 2/19]
2/21: Art and faith: idols, surrogates, narratives, prohibitions, iconoclasm, transcendence
2/26, 2/28: Pictorial Space: science, perspective, mimesis, drama, and photography
3/4, 3/6: Who is the artist, who is the audience? the collectivity, genius, and everyone else (including “Anonymous”) G: 15, 17, 18
[2nd paper due: 3/4]
3/11: QUIZ
3/13: Art, power, war, and nationalism
3/25: Art, power, war, and nationalism
[Rice, “Parisian Views,” synopsis due: 3/25],
3/27, 4/1: Activism: art in the era of revolution G: 24, 25, 26
4/8, 4/10: Middle-Class apotheosis: Impressionism
4/22: Abstract Art: Its Rise, Fall, and Rebirth
4/24: QUIZ
EXPRESSIVE CULTURE: IMAGES, spring 2008

Professor Kenneth E. Silver (Preceptors: Ms. Karen Leader, Karen.Leader@nyu.edu and Ms. Jodi Roberts, Jodi.Roberts@nyu.edu)
Department of Art History
Lectures: Tues and Thurs 2-3:15
Office hours: Silver: Tues 3:30-5:30; Leader: Tues 3:30-4:30; Roberts: Thurs12:45-1:45

Course objectives: This course is intended as an introduction to the rich world of visual images. Western art—Europe and America—will form the basis for most lectures and discussions, but Asia and Africa will figure in the course as well from time to time. Other forms of visual expression not necessarily considered art will also figure in the course occasionally (fashion, advertising, et al.). The goal of the course is to gain a familiarity with varieties of visual expression, and to understand their forms, meanings, contexts, and intentions. It is hoped that the students will both gain an appreciation of visual forms and develop a critical distance in relationship to them. The lectures will be thematic and free-ranging, as outlined on the accompanying syllabus.


Requirements:

3 papers (2 short papers, 1 longer paper)
2 quizzes—all images for which students are responsible will be found on the course site on Blackboard
6 reading synopses from articles and/or chapters available at course Blackboard site
plus: additional short writing and speaking assignments in class, and several gallery and museum visits

All writing assignments must be typed, double-spaced. No hand-written assignments will be accepted. You must retain all your written submissions after they are handed back.

n.b. Any late work, without a written doctor’s note, will be severely down-graded. All work must be completed in order to pass the course.

Attendance will be taken in all discussion sections; students must participate in discussions, and participation will be calculated as part of the course grade.

Grade calculation: 50% writing assignments; 30% quizzes; 20% section work and participation.

There is absolutely no eating in the classroom; drinks in covered containers only.