Avant-Garde New York, from the Armory Show to Andy Warhol (Spring 2015)
MW 2-3:15, room 300, Silver Center
Professor Kenneth E. Silver (office hours: Monday 3:30-5:30)
Section leaders: Blanca Serrano & Antonia Pocock

Syllabus and Assignments

D = pages to read in Erika Doss, Twentieth-Century American Art (2002)

1/26 What lies ahead: a course preview

1/28 The theory and practice of the avant-garde: European art 1790-1914

2/2 The 10th Street Building and expatriate artists: artistic New York before the rise of an American avant-garde

D: pp. 9-51.

2/4 Lexington at 25th Street: avant-garde at the Armory Show, 1913

**synopsis due:** Joanne M. Mancini, “‘One Term is as Fatuous as Another’: Responses to the Armory Show Reconsidered,” American Quarterly Vol. 51, No. 4 (December 1999), pp. 833-870.

D: pp. 53-72

**first paper assigned (see NYU Classes)**

2/9 291 5th Ave: Alfred Stieglitz, from art photographer to entrepreneur of the avant-garde

2/11 West 67th Street: The Arensbergs, Dada, and Duchamp, c.1917


2/16 (no class: President’s Day)

2/18 Skylines: New York harbor & Brooklyn, and East 46th Street (O’Keeffe at the Shelton Hotel)


**first paper due: in class**
2/23  The new institutions of the New York avant-garde, I: The Société Anonyme, Whitney Museum on 8th Street, and Gallatin’s Gallery of Living Art at NYU


**D:** pp. 75-91

2/25  Entr’acte: performance in New York (Gershwin, Calder, Stein/Thomson/Stettheimer, Balanchine, Graham, Cage)

**second paper assigned (see NYU Classes)**

3/2  The new institutions of the New York avant-garde, II: MoMA, The Rockefellers, and Rockefeller Center


3/4  Murals, Diego Rivera, and the WPA in New York [lecture by Blanca Serrano]

**D:** pp. 97-108

3/9  Union Square: art and the working class

**synopsis due:** Ellen Wiley Todd, “The Neighborhood,” in *The ‘New Woman’ Revised: Painting and Gender Politics on Fourteenth Street* (1993), pp. 84-135, and notes, pp. 338-344.

3/11  **(mid-term quiz)**

3/16  (no class: spring recess)
3/18  (no class: spring recess)

3/23  Edward Hopper: Regionalist, New York Realist, or Real Surrealist?

**D:** pp. 108-117

**second paper due: in class**

3/25  American avant-garde primitivism: Sheeler, Nadelman, Stettheimer, and Hirshfield

3/30 Jacob Lawrence’s *Migration Series*: civil rights and modernism

D: pp. 91-95

4/1 Artists-in-Exile: Paris comes to New York


4/8 Salvador Dali: Surrealism and Kitsch at the New York World's Fair


4/13 Europe, America, and Utopia Parkway: Joseph Cornell

**Third paper assigned (see NYU Classes)**

4/15 From Greenwich Village to the world: the birth of Abstract Expressionism


D: pp. 119-137

4/20 MacDougal Alley: Jackson Pollock’s Wild West (Village) show

4/22 A certain logic: Color Field, early Minimalism, early Fluxus, Neo-Dada


D: pp. 139-159

4/27 278 Pearl Street: Johns and Rauschenberg
CORE-UA.720 | Expressive Culture: Images

4/29  Washington Square, one last time: Judson Dance Theater, Gallery, and Claes Oldenburg [lecture by Antonia Pocock]


5/4  New York’s own flâneurs: The Street Photographers


5/6  231 East 47th Street: Andy Warhol’s Pop Art “Factory” (Between Commercial and Fine Art)

    **third paper due: in class


5/11  (final quiz)