



LT/AH 358 READING THE CITY: LITERATURE AND ART IN NICE
IES Abroad Nice

DESCRIPTION:

This introduction to Art History and Literature course will explore artistic movements linked with local history, starting with Baroque style architecture (XVII-XVIIIth c.) in Nice, then, studying a rich artistic heritage especially from the end of the XIXth to the XXth century : Paul Signac, Auguste Renoir, Matisse, Picasso, Fernand Léger, Marc Chagall, Jean Cocteau and many others, as well as writers coming from different countries who lived and wrote there: Nietzsche, Guy de Maupassant, Anton Tchekov, Romain Gary, Francis Scott Fitzgerald.

Through the combination of lectures, museum visits and discussions, the course will explore the way how these artists were inspired by the Mediterranean light and landscapes, how the creativity of these artists influenced Modern Art, also the interaction of different artists living there and as a result, the development of monographic museums and presence of art collectors.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

INSTRUCTOR: Yolita René

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Students attend one weekly 2.5-hour session.

- Lectures
- Readings and screening
- Oral presentations
- Group discussions
- Field study activities

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 20%
- Research paper: 20%
- Course-related excursions: 15%
- Activity journal: 15%
- Course engagement: 10%

COURSE ENGAGEMENT:

This includes class activities and homework assignments such as individual exercises, group tasks, summaries, text commentaries, reports, Internet research, etc. Instructors will also value students' positive and participatory attitude in class, as well as in programmed activities carried out outside the classroom.

ACTIVITY JOURNAL:

Students will write a personal journal that includes all course activities outside the classroom: visits, excursions, exhibitions, etc. Students can choose if they prefer their journal to be private (submitted to the instructor) or public (posted on a student blog).

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**MIDTERM EXAM:**

Midterm written exam will consist of 3 brief essay questions and a text commentary, related to the topics studied in class.

FINAL EXAM:

Final written exam will consist of 3 brief essay questions and a text commentary, related to the topics studied in class.

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

Nice, Old town: Baroque style palaces and churches
Fine Art Museum in Nice : Musée des beaux-Arts Jules Chéret
Musée Matisse, Nice
Musée Chagall, Nice
Musée Picasso, Antibes
Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul and Matisse Chapel, Vence
Musée Léger, Biot

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Critically analyze the stylistic developments and the most important contributions of major artists who lived on the French Riviera
- Understand the wide artistic international influence of artists who lived and created in this area
- The connection of the French Riviera with art and literature, with different writers, interaction between different artists
- Demonstrate a good knowledge of the importance the French Riviera in Modern Art History
- Understand the role of museums, foundations & art institutions dedicated to major artists who lived there and where their art works are preserved

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than two classes in any course half a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Code of Academic Integrity. All work submitted by a student for academic credit should constitute the student's own original work. Any work submitted for academic credit may be subject to review by a textual similarity detection service for the detection of plagiarism and AI usage.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 1, Session 1	Course presentation, introducing instructors and students. 1. Syllabus presentation, including tasks and readings. 2. Brief introduction of the cultural importance of Nice, pointing out some of its main landmarks and representatives, including important figures and institutions.	<u>Required readings:</u> Coming.
Week 2, Session 2	Nice in XVII-XVIII c. • Barocco style architecture in the Old town • Course related trip to the Old Nice	<u>Required readings:</u> • Tobias Smollett about Nice in: <i>Travels Through France and Italy</i>
Week 3, Session 3	Symbolist painting & literature • Gustave-Adolphe Mossa: Symbolist painting & literature around 1900 • Jean Lorrain, <i>Errant vice</i>	<u>Required readings:</u> • Jean Lorrain, <i>Errant vice</i> (translation: Brian Stableford) • James Longford, <i>Gustave Moreau - Father of Symbolism?</i>, Southgate books, 2019.
Week 4, Session 4	Impressionists and post impressionists on the Riviera Renoir and Monet, Bonnard, Paul Signac & the writer Guy de Maupassant, <i>On the Water</i>	<u>Required readings/viewings:</u> Guy de Maupassant, <i>On the water</i> <u>Practical assignments:</u> • Student presentations
Week 5, Session 5	Matisse and the Mediterranean • Matisse <i>Notes of a painter</i> • Course related trip to Matisse Museum	<u>Required readings:</u> • Henri Matisse, « Notes of painter », In : Harisson, Charles, Wood, Paul. <i>Art in Theory 1900-1990. An Anthology of changing ideas</i>. Malden. MA: 1999 (5 pp.) • Henri Matisse, « Statements to Tériade » in Harisson, Charles (idem) (1 p.) <u>Practical assignments:</u> • Student presentations • Journal response to course-related trip
Week 6, Session 6	Marc Chagall • Bible series • Course related trip to Chagall's Museum	<u>Required readings/films:</u> • Chagall Museum visit • Dallmayr, Fred. <i>Marc Chagall. The Artist as Peacemaker</i>. London: Routledge, 2021. <u>Films :</u> • Philippe Kohly, <i>Matisse-Picasso</i>, 2002. (52 minutes) • Lauro Venturi, <i>Chagall</i>, 1964 (25 minutes) <u>Practical assignments :</u> • Student presentations

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Week 7, Session 7	Picasso and Nicolas de Staël in Antibes & literature: W. Somerset Maugham <i>The Three Fat Women of Antibes</i> • Picasso's work around his period called <i>Joy of Life</i> in 1946 • Nicolas de Staël last works created in Antibes: between abstraction and figuration • Course related trip to Picasso's Museum in Antibes	<u>Required readings:</u> • W. Somerset Maugham <i>The Three Fat Women of Antibes</i> • Guillaume Apollinaire, <i>The Cubists 1905-1912</i> <u>Optional reading :</u> • F. Scott Fitzgerald <i>Tender is the night</i> <u>Practical assignments:</u> • Student presentations
Week 8, Session 8	Midterm First Modern Art Foundation in France: Maeght in Saint Paul de Vence • Miro • Giacometti • Braque • Calder • Course related trip to Maeght Foundation	<u>Required readings:</u> <u>Practical assignments:</u> • Journal response to course-related trip
Week 9, Session 9	Fernand Léger in Biot • Paintings, murals, ceramics • Around the works of Fernand Leger's National Museum collection	<u>Required readings:</u> excerpts from • <i>The origins of Painting and its Representational Value</i>, 1913. In Harisson, Charles, Wood, Paul. <i>Art in Theory 1900-1990. An Anthology of changing ideas</i>. Malden. MA: 1999 (4 pp.) <u>Optional readings :</u> • Nicholas Serota, Fernand Léger. <i>The Late Years</i>, Munich: Prestel Verlag, 1987
Week 10, Session 10	Other artists & architects on the French Riviera Cocteau, Man Ray, Le Corbusier	<u>Required readings:</u> <u>Films :</u> • Man Ray <i>The mystery of the Chateau Dice</i> • Jean Cocteau, <i>Testament of Orpheus</i>, 1960 (77 min) <u>Practical assignments:</u> • Student presentations
Week 11, Session 11	Artists from l'« Ecole de Nice » (the School of Nice) Yves Klein, Arman, Ben Vautier, Noël Dolla	<u>Required readings:</u> • O'Neill, Rosemary. <i>Art and Visual Culture on the French Riviera, 1956-1971. The Ecole de Nice</i>. London : Routledge, 2012 <u>Film :</u> • Jean Vigo, <i>A propos de Nice</i>, 1930 (25 minutes)
Week 12, Session 12	In-class Final Exam	



READINGS:

To come

INSTRUCTOR BIO:

Yolita René is an art historian and independent exhibition curator.

She has organized different exhibitions about Symbolism, including: *Eros & Thanatos* at the Palais Lumière in Evian (France), *The Posthumous Dialogue between F. Rops and G.-A. Mossa* at the Félicien Rops Museum in Namur (Belgium), *Mossa Niciensis Pinxit* at the Fine Art Museum in Nice (France). She has also published several exhibition catalogs and written mostly on Symbolism & Photography.

In different exhibitions Yolita René has always privileged the creation of dialogues between Visual arts, Literature and Music.

She has also organized art collectors' meetings in Monaco and many conferences about different artists or artistic movements on the French Riviera.

In the past years, she has been curator for exhibitions about photography. Her project in that field was selected at the 50th International Rencontres d'Arles Photography Festival.

In November 2024, she participated in a Conference about black & white photography at the National Library of France (Richelieu).

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