Art 3066

Modern Art

Prof. Simon

Fall 2019

**Paper Assignment**

This paper assignment will consist of a review of the newly installed galleries at the Museum of Modern Art, as well as a short formal analysis of two chosen works. You will consider the ways in which the story of modernism is told through the works on MoMA’s fifth floor.

Go the Museum of Modern Art, located at 11 West 53rd Street. Entry is free with your Brooklyn College student ID. Make your way up to the fifth floor galleries (1880s-1940s) and review the new installation. Analyze the installation critically, assessing its strengths and weaknesses. Consider some or all of the following:

* How does the installation tell the story of the development of Modern Art?
* How is the story being told here different from what we discuss in class?
* What did you see in the galleries that surprised you?
* Does the layout of the galleries enhance the exhibit or detract from its message?
* What did you see that piqued your interest or changed your understanding of an artist whose work you thought you knew?
* How did the inclusion of contemporary works of art alongside older ones impact your perception of this period and its relevance?
* Is there anything you would change about the installation?

In addition to this general review, you will do a brief formal analysis on two works of art. The works should be similar in some way – they might share an artist, a theme, a geographic origin – but they also must fundamentally differ in one of the following ways:

* By medium (e.g. compare a painting with a sculpture, a film clip with an architectural model, etc.)

OR

* By time period

Note that you cannot choose two works from the same movement, so for example, don’t pick a Cubist painting by Braque and a Cubist sculpture by Picasso. The idea is to consider visual similarities between works you might not otherwise associate with each other. Analyze your choices individually, then explain why you thought they belonged together in some way.

In order to make sure that you have chosen appropriate works, you must tell me what you’ll be writing about by **Friday, November 22**. This deadline is mandatory, and failure to meet it will result in a three-point deduction from your final paper grade.

This is not primarily a research paper, but some basic research on your part might be necessary. If you choose to do some research, it is of utmost importance that you document your sources properly! I prefer Chicago style, but you may use any citation style as long as you use it properly and consistently. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. **PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC GRADE OF F FOR THE PAPER.**

I encourage you to meet with me to discuss the assignment and any questions you may have. Drop-in office hours are on Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 in 5109 Boylan and other times by appointment. Please be in touch via email if you cannot meet with me in person (msimon@brooklyn.cuny.edu). Additionally, you can get help writing your paper from the Art Department’s writing tutor, Chris Workoff, who hosts hours in our Art Library (5300 Boylan) on Mondays from 2-5, Tuesdays 10-2, and Thursdays 3-6.

Keep your writing focused and on point. Papers should be between 6-8 pages of text. Relevant images must be included, either embedded within the text or in a separate addendum.

**Final papers are due, in person, on Friday December 6**. Papers must also be uploaded to Safe Assign via Blackboard at this time. Papers submitted after this deadline will be subject to the late policy described on the course syllabus. No papers will be accepted after Friday, December 13.

Below is a grading rubric for this assignment:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent (25 points) | Good (22 points) | Satisfactory (19 points) | Fair (16 points) | Poor (13 points) |
| Museum Review | Opinion is clear and precise, strongly supported by abundant and highly relevant evidence throughout the paper. Review addresses all of the questions asked. | Opinion is clear, supported by solid evidence throughout the paper. Review addresses most of the questions asked. | Opinion is not clearly stated, but discernible, and is generally supported by evidence in most parts of the paper. Review addresses some of the questions asked. | Opinion is weakly stated and is partially supported by evidence in some parts of the paper. Review addresses few of the questions asked. | Opinion is weakly stated, and is unsupported by evidence. Review addresses none of the questions asked. |
| Formal description | Clearly describes all major formal features of the works.  | Clearly describes formal features of the works.  | Superficially describes formal features of the works.  | Ambiguously describes some formal features of the works.  | Does not clearly describe any formal features of the works.  |
| Compare/Contrast | Works chosen strongly relate to one another and comparison is thorough and thought-provoking.  | Works chosen relate well to one another and comparison is thorough. | Works chosen relate only slightly to one another and comparison is superficially drawn. | Works chosen relate poorly to one another and comparison is poorly drawn. | Works chosen do not related to one another and no comparison is drawn.. |
| Writing quality | Language is clear and precise. Art historical terms are used with great accuracy. Spelling and grammar are correct throughout. | Language is clear and precise. Art historical terms are used with accuracy. Spelling and grammar are mostly correct throughout. | Language is imprecise. Art historical terms are sometimes confused. Frequent mistakes in spelling and grammar. | Language is imprecise. Art historical terms are avoided or confused. Frequent mistakes in spelling and grammar. | Language is imprecise. Art historical terms are completely absent. Frequent mistakes in spelling and grammar obscure meaning of the text |

**Failure to meet the November 22 deadline will result in a deduction of 3 points from your paper grade.**