

CANADIAN ART, EH?

ACLT6221

Course Outline

Description:

You may be familiar with the art produced in other countries, but what about the vibrant art of Canada? Discover our rich history of art through a series of illustrated lectures highlighting major artistic styles and groups from the late 19th to the late 20th centuries. Back by popular demand, this course examines a variety of Canadian artists, including Paul Peel, Emily Carr, and Alex Colville, and the important issues of nationalism, regionalism, and native cultures expressed by The Group of Seven, Greg Curnoe, and Rebecca Belmore, respectively.

Course Goals:

The course will offer students a greater appreciation of the art created in Canada throughout the 19th and 20th centuries by examining the artistic priorities of various stylistic periods and artists in a variety of Canadian centres. The course will also discuss some socio-political issues connected with these priorities, so that students are exposed to the Canadian context in which the artworks were created, and compare them to the artistic priorities of other countries.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, the student will be able to: identify the artists of some major Canadian paintings, and understand the thematic and stylistic chronology of artworks dating from the late 19th to late 20th centuries.

Texts: N/A

Attendance Requirements:

Students must miss no more than two classes to receive a completion for this course. A grade report can be printed from myWCS.

Code of Student Conduct:

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For the complete Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

Western Continuing Studies

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Introduction: Art at the Turn-of-the-Century

a) Landscape Painters in Toronto

-Artists were influenced by the American "Luminists," who were interested in light and its effects. The Canadians applied this interest to the Canadian landscape.

b) The "French Period"

- This "period" was characterized by many young Canadian artists travelling to Paris for artistic training. They often didn't return to Canada.

-They were trained in the academic style: works were naturalistic, detailed, large, contained psychological content and anatomical renderings.

c) The Canadian Art Club

-Members were dissatisfied with the "old" academic style, and were influenced by the new European styles such as Impressionism.

-They wanted to lure Canadian artists in Europe back to Canada

Week 2

1920s/30s

a) The Group of Seven

-This group asserted the primacy of Canadian subject-matter expressed through a distinct "Canadian style" of landscape painting. It was, however, influenced by European styles.

b) "Independents"

-These artists worked at the same time as the Group of Seven, but did not achieve full recognition until the Group disbanded, and attention was focused elsewhere.

-Artists include Emily Carr, David Milne, and LeMoine Fitzgerald.

Week 3

1930s/40s

a) The Canadian Group of Painters

-Toronto group who expanded on the nationalistic ideas of the Group of Seven but recruited artists from a larger geographical base, included women, supported figure-painting as nationalistic, and encouraged the individual style of members.

b) The Beaver Hall Hill Group

-A sub-group of the Canadian Group of Painters, which mostly consisted of Montreal-born, Anglophone women interested in modernism.

c) The Contemporary Arts Society

Western Continuing Studies

- Montreal group which consisted of formalist painters influenced by modern French styles, particularly Fauvism.
- it rejected the idea of conveying nationalism in art, and promoted "art for art's sake."

Week 4

1940s/50s/60s

a) Les Automatistes

- Group interested in investigating the principles of Surrealism to create abstract works.

b) Montreal Abstraction After Les Automatistes

- Period in which abstract painting was executed in the post-painterly style of hard-edged, geometrical forms.

c) The Painters Eleven

- Toronto group interested in the Abstract Expressionist style.

d) The Regina 5

- Loose formation of artists in the West interested in modern abstract painting.

Week 5

1960s/70s

a) Ontario

- Artists from Toronto (Michael Snow and Joyce Wieland) and London (Greg Curnoe and Jack Chambers)

b) Eastern Canada

- Artists from the Maritime region interested in the "New Realist" style (Alex Colville, Christopher Pratt, and Mary Pratt).

Week 6

1980s/1990s

a) Contemporary Art and Issues of Race

- Much of this art addresses issues of native identity and history (Carl Beam, Rebecca Belmore, Alex Janvier, and Teresa Marshall)