DESCRIPTION:

This course is an historical survey of modern painting in France from the emergency of modernity and modernism during the Second Empire in the mid-nineteenth century to the late modernism of the 1960s in the last years of Trente Glorieuses. The course will be both an internal and an external history. It will ask questions within the field of painting or rather it will ask the question which modern painters asked themselves: what is painting—and what is it not? The course will also place the field of painting within the political and social context of modern France. How is modern painting a response, critical or complicit, to modern France?

READINGS:

Richard Brettell, Modern Art 1851-1929: Capitalism and Representation (Oxford 978-0192842206)

In addition students will be given a course reader which contains documents from the 19th and 20th centuries and critical articles on the artists and movements.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Midterm Examination: 20%
Final Examination: 20%
Three Analyses of Paintings: 40%
Class Attendance and Participation (including homework and quizzes): 20%

Syllabus

Week of August 31:
  Thinking about Painting
  The Institutions of Art in France in 1855

Week of September 7
  Courbet in 1855: Pavillon of Realism
  Visit to the Musée d'Orsay

Week of September 14
  Manet in 1863: Le Salon des Refusés
  Visit to the Musée d'Orsay

Week of September 21
  Landscape Painting in the 19th-Century
  Visit: Musée du Louvre

Week of September 28
  Monet in 1874: 1st Impressionist Exhibit
  Visit to the Musée Marmottan

Week of October 5
  Gauguin in 1889: Paris World Fair
  Visit to the Musée d'Orsay

Week of October 12
  Where are the Women?
  Mid-term Examination
Week of October 12  
Matisse in 1905  
Visit to the Musée national d’art moderne (Centre Pompidou)

Week of October 19  
Braque and Picasso in 1912  
Visit to the Musée Picasso

Week of October 26  
Delaunay and the Entry into Abstraction  
Visit to the Musée national d’art modern (Centre Pompidou)

Week of November 2  
Yves Klein  
Visit to the Musée d’art modern de la ville de Paris

Week of November 9  
Villeglé in 1961: La France déchirée  
?

Week of November 16  
Viallat and Buren in 1968:  
?

Week of November 23  
2015: Painting after the End of Painting:  
Conclusions