Modern Painting in France 1855-1968

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?