

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Proposal for a New Course

1. Course No: ART4**
2. Course Title: 19TH & 20TH CENTURY WESTERN PAINTING.
3. Per Week Lectures: 03(L), Tutorial: 0(T), Laboratory: 0 (P), Additional Hours[0-2]: _____(A),
Credits (3*L+0*T+P+A): 09 Duration of Course: Full Semester / Modular
4. Proposing Department/IDP: Humanities and Social Sciences.

Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course: None.

Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course: None.

5. Proposing Instructor(s): Ritwij Bhowmik
6. Course Description: Please see enclosed documents for information under No. 6. & 7.
A) Objectives:
B) Contents (preferably in the form of 5 to 10 broad titles)

S. No	Broad Title	No. of Lectures
1.		

C) Pre-requisites, if any (examples: a- PSO201A, or b- PSO201A or equivalent):
D) Short summary for including in the Courses of Study Booklet

7. Recommended Books:

Textbooks:

Reference Books:

8. Any other remarks: None.

Dated: January 1, 2026 Proposer: Ritwij Bhowmik

Dated: January 1, 2026 DUGC/DPGC Convener: _____

The course is approved / not approved

Chairman, SUGC/SPGC

Dated: _____

19TH & 20TH CENTURY WESTERN PAINTING

(Course Proposal)

Proposed by: Prof. Ritwij Bhowmik

6. Course Description

This is a theoretical art history course that introduces the history of modern painting in the Western world to undergraduate students. Students will study the modern painting practices in Europe and the USA throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Through a string of innovative art movements led by some pioneering artists, students will (theoretically) explore a diverse array of art mediums, and new art techniques that aim to provide a wide-ranging art historical and visual cultural overview of modern art within the larger domain of Visual Art—from Romanticism to Post-Impressionism, Cubism to Abstract Expressionism, Fauvism to Pop Art, Surrealism to Minimalism. Furthermore, it will align them in the societal, political, economic, and historical settings from which they were generated.

There is no prerequisite, but fluency in the English language and an inclination towards the visual arts are absolutely necessary. The course evaluation will include regular written quizzes, as well as mid-semester and end-semester examinations.

A) The Objective of this course:

- I. The key objective of this course is to introduce students to the history of painting practice in the Western world.
- II. To teach the principal artists, art movements, and famous paintings, and how they have reacted to and engaged with both local and international art contexts.
- III. To be able to recognize legendary artists, art movements, and paintings.
- IV. To develop a broader appreciation for how the previous generations shaped the present art practices. To comprehend the function of the studio system and art institutions.
- V. To teach how a single painting can be seen and understood in multiple ways.
- VI. To teach how visual art can reflect important world/historical events.

B) Contents:

Sl. No.	Board Titles	Number of Lectures
1.	Introduction to the 19th & 20th Century Western Painting	1
2.	What is Modern Painting?	1
3.	Romanticism	3
4.	French Realism	3
5.	The Impressionists	3
6.	Post-Impressionism & Vincent van Gogh	3
7.	Henri Matisse and Fauvism	3
8.	Pablo Picasso and the onset of Cubism	3
9.	German Expressionism Art Movement	3
10.	Dada-ism in Europe	3
11.	The prominent Surrealist Painters	3
12.	Introduction to American Abstract Expressionism	3
13.	American Pop Art movement	3
14.	Op Art movement	1
15.	Minimalism in Painting	3

C) Pre-requisites: None.

D) Short summary for including in the Courses of Study Booklet:

This is a theoretical art history course that introduces the history of Western painting in the Europe and in the USA, in the 19th and 20th century. This course will help the students to appreciate Western artistic traditions not simply for their visual appeal but also for the historical context related with their creation. The course intended to see the paintings not in isolation but position them in a bigger context of history, culture, society, religion, and environment. There is no prerequisite, but fluency in the English language and general knowledge about world history and inclination towards Visual-Arts are absolutely essential.

7. Recommended books

Text Books:

Adams, Laurie S. *A History of Western Art*. 5th edition, 2011.

Tomory E. *History of Fine Arts in India & the West*. Orient Blackswan; Reprinted edition.

Reference Books:

Berger, John. *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin Classics, 2008.

Feldman, E. B. *VARIETIES OF VISUAL EXPERIENCE*. 4th edition, 1992.

Tolstoy, L. *WHAT IS ART?* PENGUIN BOOKS, 1995.

Wilder, J. B. *Art History for Dummies*. Wiley, 1st Edition, 2007.