

Name:	Dr. Matthias Vollmer
Email address:	mvollmer@t-online.de
Course title:	Art in Germany from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century
Track:	D-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	4

Course description

The course will introduce Berlin's outstanding art collections, with their wide range of masterpieces from late medieval times to the present day. We shall focus throughout on the particular circumstances that shaped the production and reception of German art, especially during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. During this long period, the formation of a German nation state and the problematic notion of a German national identity became intimately connected to the question of a German style and artistic 'expression'. A special focus will be given to the "Art of the two Germanys" between 1945 and 1989. We shall explore Germany's vibrant art history by focusing in depth on works by artists like Martin Schongauer and Albrecht Dürer, Caspar David Friedrich, Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Adolph Menzel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Otto Dix, Joseph Beuys and Anselm Kiefer. Visits include the following museums and galleries in Berlin: the Deutsche Historische Museum, the Gemäldegalerie, the Museum of Photography, the Brücke Museum, the Nationalgalleries, and the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum.

Student profile

In principle, the course is open to all students regardless of their field of study, but in the first place it addresses art history students. An elementary knowledge of art and art history is advantageous, but not obligatory.

Prerequisites

none

Course Requirements

Regular attendance & active participation, final exam

Grading

Attendance & participation: 60%

Final Exam: 40%

Literature

A course reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Monday, July 30, 2012	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Overview of the content, aims and the logistic parameters of the course: grading, attendance, final exam, visits to museums (excursions)</p> <p>Art and National Identity</p> <p>Excursion: Deutsches Historisches Museum</p>
Tuesday, July 31, 2012	<p>The Middle Ages and the Renaissance: From Prague to Nuremberg and Wittenberg</p> <p>Excursion: Gemäldegalerie - Altarpieces and panel paintings</p>
Thursday, August 2, 2012	<p>The 19th Century: Romanicism, Historicism and Realism</p> <p>Excursion: Alte Nationalgalerie: Friedrich, Runge, Menzel, Böcklin</p>
Friday, August 3, 2012	<p>Light and the Discovery of Photography</p> <p>Excursion: Museum of Photography</p>
Monday, August 6, 2011	<p>The 20th Century - The Avantgardes I</p> <p>Excursion: Brücke-Museum or Berlinische Galerie</p>
Tuesday, August 7, 2011	<p>The 20th Century - From the Avantgardes to "Degenerate Art"</p> <p>Exkursion: Neue Nationalgalerie or Sammlung Scharf-Gerstenberg</p>
Thursday, August 9, 2011	<p>The 20th Century: Contemporary Art and the German Past</p> <p>Excursion: Hamburger Bahnhof Gallery</p>
Friday, August 10, 2011	<p>Final Exam in Class</p>