

History of Modern Scandinavian Art & Architecture

Instructor: Peder Fallenius

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Class Hours Fridays 1:15 - 4:15 PM

Course Description

The course addresses modernism and the idea of the modernist Swedish art and architecture from the late nineteenth century to present day. Some focus is placed on the role of the landscape and urban environment in art and architecture as affected by Sweden's development from agricultural society to urban welfare state. Although centred on artistic and architectural development and practises in Sweden the course aims to give an introduction to modernist and contemporary art and architecture in general. The course includes visits to some of the major art collections and some of the architectural landmarks of Stockholm.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to

- Identify and describe the different characteristics of the many stylistic approaches to art and architecture of the 20th century
- Discuss and contextualize the changing approaches in the art and architecture of the 20th century

Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes, you have to come to classes and study visits to pass the class. Furthermore, students are expected to read texts for consultation in class and to prepare presentations for the study visits. Active participation in class discussions of texts (manifestos) and pictures (attributions) is essential. You should prepare for each class by writing down the questions you have about the text and its relation to the the course content. Unexcused absence will lower your grade.

Presentations

Each student will be responsible for nine presentations during the semester. Depending on the size of the class the presentations are carried out individually, in pairs or in groups. The presentations are given during the scheduled study visits and are expected to be a 5-10 minute talk in front of the class.

Grading

The final grade will be a weighing together of the results during the semester. Your grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

<i>Attendance and participation:</i>	20%
<i>Presentations and consultations:</i>	20%
<i>Midterm</i>	25%
<i>Final</i>	35%

Detailed Schedule

Sep 2 A short introduction Swedish art and architecture during the 20th century

Sep 9 Architecture and town planning: from the turn of the century to the 1920s

Reading: Louis Sullivan *The tall office building artistically considered* 1896

Topics covered: Classicist traditions in architecture, neo-classicism (Swedish Grace), Art nouveau. Using town planning and architecture in central Stockholm.

Sep 16 1:15 PM – 5:15 PM Architecture and town planning: Ceremonial sites: *The Woodland Cemetery*

Topics covered: a visit to the cemetery on the UN World Heritage Lists summing up the themes covered during the semester. During fall semester this class is scheduled early during the semester, thus becoming an introduction of themes covered during the semester.

Sep 23 Art of the turn of the century: *Waldemarsudde*

Reading: Reactions to the first impressionist exhibition 1874 (excerpts)

Topics covered: impressionism and symbolism. Using the art collection exhibited at Waldemarsudde

Sep 30 Art of the early 20th century at Moderna museet

Reading: F. T Marinetti *Futurist manifesto* 1909

Topics covered: fauvism, cubism, futurism and early abstraction. Using the art collection exhibited at Moderna museet.

Oct 7 1:15 PM – 5:15 PM Architecture and town planning: *Housing*

Reading: Ebenezer Howard *Garden cities of tomorrow* 1898 (excerpt)

Topics covered: ideas and examples of housing from the 1920s up to current projects using areas of housing in Hammarbyhöjden, Hammarby Sjöstad and at Södermalm.

(Midterm posted)

Oct 14 Contemporary Art

Reading: depending on the content of the class

Oct 21 Architecture and town planning: Karlaplan and beyond

Reading: Camillo Sitte *Town planning according to artistic principles* 1889 (excerpt)

Topics covered: ideas about planning and architecture from the late 19th century through the 20th century using a part of Stockholm rich in examples from the entire period.

(Midterm exam due)

FALL BREAK October 25 - November 7

Nov 11 1:15 PM – 5:15 PM Architecture and town planning: *City and Suburbia*

Reading: Le Corbusier *Towards a new architecture* 1923 (excerpt)

Topics covered: architecture and planning ideas of the mid 20th century. Using town planning and architecture in central Stockholm and suburban Vällingby.

Nov 18 Art of the mid 20th century at Moderna museet

Reading: André Breton *Surrealist manifesto* 1924

Topics covered: surrealism, dadaism, informal art. Using the art collection exhibited at Moderna museet.

Dec 2 Public art

Reading: depending on the current debate.

Topics covered: public art as an integral part of public building projects in Sweden in the period from the 1940 until now. Using examples in the central parts of Stockholm.

(Final exam due December 9)

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Have you been granted educational support because of a documented disability? If so, please contact the course director as soon as possible so that adequate accommodations can be made. Contact specialneeds@hhs.se if you have questions about being granted educational support or need a copy of your educational support certificate. Read more at [Special Needs on the Portal](#).

Literature

Course material

Alan Colquhoun *Modern Architecture*

Oxford History of Art Oxford University Press 2002

Additional reading:

Utopia & reality : modernity in Sweden 1900-1960 : [Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture, New York, March 14 - June 16, 2002] / [editor: Cecilia Widenheim ; translators Henning Koch, Sylvester Mazzarella, David McDuff]

New Haven : Yale University Press, cop. 2002

Additional reading as preparation for presentations.

Additional texts for consultation in class.

Examination

Examination

Students will be given a midterm and final exam, each comprised of two essay questions to take home.

Presentations

Each student will be responsible for six presentations during the semester. Depending on the size of the class the presentations are carried out individually, in pairs or in groups. The presentations are given during the scheduled study visits and are expected to be a 5-10 minute talk in front of the class.

Grading

The final grade will be a weighing together of the results during the semester.

Your grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

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