This course surveys Modernism in the visual arts from about the middle of the 19th to the late 20th Century, and addresses the social, economic, and political forces that arose in tandem. We will mostly examine art in Europe, but toward the end of the course, also consider art in the United States. As we will see, the relationship between artistic and social (or economic) modernity was by no means simple, and much Modernist art was conceived in opposition to the forces and effects of modernization. That very consonance and conflict was the basis for the extraordinary range, diversity, freedom and complexity of Modernism.

Course Requirements
- Attendance at lectures
- Attendance at and participation in weekly discussion sections

Required Textbooks
- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*
- Vincent van Gogh, *The Letters of van Gogh, edited by Ronald De Leeuw*
- *Art in Theory: 1900 to 2000*, edited by Charles Harrison and Paul Wood
- John Berger, *The Success and Failure of Picasso*

Assessments
- Midterm exam (you must take the midterm to pass the course)
- Final exam (you must take and pass the final to pass the course)
- One paper: a formal and historical analysis of a work of Modern Art at the Art Institute of Chicago, due on the last day of class.