The most famous artist of the twentieth century, Picasso is synonymous with the idea of modern art. Examining his work from his early scenes of bohemian Paris to his invention of cubism, his association with the surrealists, his famous protest mural Guernica of 1937, and his later political mural projects, we will ask: What makes Picasso such a powerful sign of the modern, continuously venerated in museums, scholarship and popular culture?

This seminar is by application only. It will include a mandatory class trip to Madrid, Spain over the Memorial Day weekend to see the special exhibition “Pity and Terror in Picasso: The Path to Guernica” at the Reina Sofia Museum. The dates of the trip will be May 25-30. Please check your calendar to be sure that you are available to travel with us over the Memorial Day weekend before applying to the seminar.

International airfare and hotel will be covered. Students are responsible for their own airport transportation, meals, any necessary passport or visa services, and other incidentals. All are welcome to apply for the seminar regardless of financial means. More information about travel dates, the application process and financial aid can be found at http://www.humanities.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/global-humanities-lab.html.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2017 AT 12 NOON

Required Textbooks

John Berger, The Success and Failure of Picasso, ISBN 0679737251

Assessments

Participation in class discussion, including presentation of readings and group work; regular written responses to assigned readings; an early short writing assignment (2-3 pp) and a final research paper related to the class trip to Madrid (see below; 8-10 pp).