Quarter/Year  Course Number  Day/Time  Instructor
Spring 2019  ART-HIST 460  M 2-5  Kiaer

Course Title
Studies in 20th Century Art: Picasso: A Focus for Method

In art history as in popular culture, approached with veneration or condemnation, Picasso is synonymous with the idea of modern art. Examining Picasso’s work from his early scenes of bohemian Paris to his engagement with primitivism, his invention of cubism, his association with the surrealists, his protest mural Guernica of 1937, and his later communist-inspired mural projects, we will ask: What makes Picasso such a powerful sign of the modern? Engaging the Picasso historiography is to engage in a focused way with the methods of modernist art history and its critics. Readings include texts by contemporaries like Gertrude Stein, Carl Einstein, and Georges Bataille, the social art history of John Berger, classic modernist texts by Clement Greenberg and Leo Steinberg, semiotic readings by Yve-Alain Bois and Rosalind Krauss, post-colonialist revisions by Simon Gikandi, Patricia Leighten and Christopher Green, feminist critiques by Carol Duncan and Anne Wagner, Michael Fitzgerald’s economic analysis of prices and dealers, the literature on Guernica including Marxist critics of the 1930s, Sarah Wilson’s Picasso/Marx, and a special emphasis on T.J. Clark’s extensive meditations on the artist and his modernism.

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

Assessments
Participation in class discussion, including presentations of readings and rotating leadership of class discussion; final research presentation and paper (ca. 12-15 pp).