

CTY Madrid 2008

Literature and the Arts: SURREALISM



Texts:

Caws, Mary Ann, ed. *Surrealist Painters and Poets: An Anthology*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002.

Brandon, Ruth. *Surreal Lives: The Surrealists, 1917-1945*. New York: Grove/Atlantic, Inc., 2000.

Other materials provided by the instructor.

Reference Texts:

Waldberg, Patrick. *Surrealism (World of Art)*. New York: Thames & Hudson, 1997.

WEEK ONE

Tuesday: Introduction, Games, Overview

Writing: Pre-assessment (essay and poem responding to art)

Lesson: Surrealist games

Activity: Rules of Class; ice-breakers; terms of formal analysis lesson

Art: Diego Velázquez's *Las Meninas* and Mark Rothko's *Red and Yellow*

Wednesday: Defining Surrealism

Reading: Dada poems by Tristan Tzara and Kurt Schwitters; Patrick Waldberg's Essay (Overview of Surrealism)

Writing: Questions on Waldberg (free write, responses and reflections, literary explication, etc.)

Lesson: Dada context and defining Surrealism; continue formal terms of analysis lesson

Activity: Exquisite Corpse

Thursday: Manifestos

Reading: Jacques Vaché's *Manifesto of Umore*; André Breton's *First Surrealist Manifesto*

Writing: Questions and reflection on manifestos

Lesson: Discuss Waldberg

Activity: Surrealist writing games

Art: Pablo Picasso, various works

Friday: Historical Context

Reading: Guillaume Apollinaire poem; other manifestos (Dada, Communist, Second Surrealist, Futurist)

Writing: Automatic writing, revisions, and sharing

Lesson: Discuss *First Surrealist Manifesto* as a class; groups present on one other manifesto

Activity: Groups work on presentation; groups brainstorm for their own original manifesto

Art: Formal analysis of visual art – vocabulary and examples

Sunday: Workshop and revise group manifestos

WEEK TWO

Monday: Ready-Mades and Conceptual Art

Reading: French surrealist poetry (selections)

Writing: Essay on Marcel Duchamp and ready-mades; formal analysis of poems

Lesson: Museum preparation; discuss poems

Art: Duchamp

Tuesday: Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró, and Surrealist Painters

Lesson: Discussion of ready-mades, parody, and conceptual art

Art: Dalí; Miró; Overview of Western Art History (Timeline)

Wednesday: Museum Trip (visit Reina Sofia and the Miró exhibit at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza)

Thursday: Collage and Surrealist Techniques

Reading: Short statements or literature by artists (Max Ernst, Picasso, Dalí, Duchamp, and Miró)

Writing: Write essays reflecting on museum trip; answer questions about poems

Lesson: Debriefing museum visit; surrealist art techniques (grattage, decalcomania, frottage, etc.)

Art: Hanna Höch and Ernst

Friday: Surrealist Film in Context

Viewing: *The Blood of a Poet* (1930, Jean Cocteau); clips from *Un Chien Andalou* (1924, Luis Buñuel & Dalí); clips from Georges Méliès, D.W. Griffith, and Auguste and Louis Lumière shorts

Writing: Workshop museum essays

Lessons: Dada/Surrealism Venn-diagram; film analysis; review: writing the critical essay

Activity: Make collage art

Sunday: Read international Surrealist poets (Federico García Lorca, Luis Cernuda, Velimir Khlebnikov, Kenneth Koch, Gunnar Ekelöf, J. V. Foix, Léopold Sédar Senghor, etc.)

WEEK THREE

Monday: “Other” Surrealisms

Writing: Draft final essay (comparison of two texts using formal and historical analysis)

Lesson: Discuss international Surrealist movements (Negritude, Generation of '27, Catalan poetry, Russian Constructivism, etc.); analysis of poems as a class

Tuesday: Psychoanalysis

Writing: Revise final essay (comparison); Oulipo (Ouvroir de littérature potentielle) poem

Lesson: Sigmund Freud, Freudian terms and concepts

Activity: Applying psychoanalysis to art (in groups); share-out Oulipo, poems

Art: Surrealist Objects (Méret Oppenheim, Man Ray, etc.)

Wednesday: Architecture and the Poetics of Space

Writing: Explanation of urban planning model

Lesson: Modern and Postmodern Architecture; introduction to semiotics

Activity: Building an urban planning model (with *Engineering Design: Architecture in Spain* class)

Art: Antoni Gaudi, Michael Cheval, Vladimir Tatlin, Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, I. M. Pei, Johnson, Renzo Piano, Santiago Calatrava, Rem Koolhaas, Robert Venturi, Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Peter Eisenman

Thursday: Narrative and Anti-Narrative

Reading: Stories (Donald Barthelme, Bruno Schulz, Raymond Roussel, Comte de Lautréamont); prose poems (Francis Ponge, Aloysius Bertrand, Stéphane Mallarmé)

Writing: Curatorial essay on student collage art; peer editing and revisions
Activity: Curate student gallery of art; Surrealist writing game
Lesson: Discuss stories and prose poems
Art: Photography (Man Ray, Dora Maar, André Kertész, Lee Miller)

Friday: Surrealist Performance

Reading: Selections from Tzara's *The Gas Heart* and Gertrude Stein's *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*
Writing: Evaluations
Activity: Rehearse, make props, and perform plays
Lesson: Performance Art, Dance, Music, and Theatre overview; discuss films
Screening: Maya Deren's *Meshes of the Afternoon* and Chris Marker's *La Jetée*