UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
History of Contemporary Art

Academic Year 2026/2027

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Architecture and Arts

2. Course

Architecture

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

History of Contemporary Art (01307)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	30,00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

2,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

Prof. Doutor HORÁCIO MANUEL PEREIRA BONIFÁCIO

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor JOAQUIM MARCELINO DA CONCEIÇÃO DOS SANTOS

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

Familiarize students with the paths followed in contemporary artistic production, simultaneously framing the key moments in the life of forms in the historical, social and cultural context in which they emerge, flourish and last.

15. Specific Objectives

Enable students to recognize the important movements throughout the 19th and 20th centuries by understanding the relationships and interrelationships between different moments of artistic culture that present identical or evolutionary assumptions.

16. Skills to be acquired

Knowledge of Architecture as an artistic phenomenon, viewing Architecture as one of the Fine Arts as well as the relationship between Architecture and Fine Arts.

17. Teaching Methodology

Taking contemporaneity as a starting point, to analyze with the support of visual evidence the concept of modernity of the 20th century and the connections to other times, demonstrating an aesthetic understanding linked to more canonical and regulated assumptions.

18. Course Unit Program

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I - THE PAST AND THE MODERN
1 - From the denial of history to the historical foundation of the Modern: the architects of the Revolution - Boullée and Ledoux and the conceptual and formal interrelationship with some modern concepts.
2 - The defense of a "modern" classicism or the partial rejection of the Modern (the return to figuration and neo-realism, the return to classicism in the late thirties, in Germany, Italy and Portugal.
3 - The rule and the model, the number and the metric - from Vitruvius and the classical canon to its modern counterparts (Le Corbusier, the "Modulor" and the "Five points for a new architecture".

II - AFTER THE MODERN: THE UNCERTAINTIES AND CONTRADICTIONS OF CONTEMPORARY ITY
1 - Attempts to broaden and critically revise the Modern and the new utopias (Aalto, L. Khan, Van der Rohe, Neutra, Yamasaky, etc.).
2 - From Brutalism to Pop - the new paths of art in the 60s and the return of abstraction and figuration.
3 - Rationalism and classicism: the influence of the classicisms of the 15th and 16th centuries as interpretations of (pre)established rules and models and the importance attributed to the 16th century treatise writers. New Vitruvian versions and the "new Alberti's".
4 - Postmodern trends.
5 - The impact and contradictions of new paradigms (consumerism vs ecology, internationalism vs local culture, deurbanism vs return to the city, etc.).

19. Assessment Methods

Continuous assessment - Two tests
1 - Iconographic analysis of an artistic object.
2 - Analysis of a theoretical theme

20. Didactic Resources

Follow-up of classes with projection of images - graphic, photographic, cinematographic - related to the artists and works under study

21. Sustainability Objectives

Ensure equal access to quality technical, professional and cultural education.

Guarantee equal opportunities in university education, including for people in vulnerable situations.

Ensure access for all to safe, adequate and affordable housing and basic services.

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Support positive economic, social and environmental relationships between urban and rural areas

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22. Keywords

contemporary art
modernist architecture
postmodern architecture

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): ARGAN, Giulio Carlo
Title: A arte Moderna do Iluminismo aos movimentos contemporâneos
Edition: Year: 2003
Local: São Paulo
Publisher: Diversos
ISBN Code:

Author(s): MONTANER, J. Maria
Title: La modernidad superada. Arquitectura, arte y pensamiento del siglo XX
Edition: Year: 2011
Local: Barcelona
Publisher: Gustavo Gili
ISBN Code:

Author(s): GÖSSEL, Peter, LEUTHÄUSER,
Title: Architecture in the 20th Century preparing for Modernism in the Industrial Age 1773 - 1916, Volume 1
Edition: Year: 2005
Local:
Publisher: Benedikt Taschen
ISBN Code:

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): FRANÇA, José-Augusto
Title: História da Arte Ocidental, 1750-2000
Edition: 2ª Year: 2006
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Livros Horizonte
ISBN Code:

Author(s): FUSCO, Renato
Title: História da Arte Contemporânea
Edition: 1ª Year: 1989
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Presença

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