

**HS PF Hochschule Pforzheim | Pforzheim University**  
**International Study Program (ISP)**

**[SSC1102 The History of German Art – Course Outline Summer Semester 2024](#)**

**ECTS credits: 3 | Workload: 90 hours – 30 hours in classroom, 60 hours for self-study**

Dear Students,

In the lecture series “History of German Art” I would like to introduce you to German art. The time line leads from the influences of antiquity through the Middle Ages, the Baroque and the 19th century to modern times and contemporary art. It's not so much about learning dates and years, but rather a lively exchange. I want to talk to you about architecture, painting and sculpture. Because in the works of art people's existential questions are articulated and in dealing with art and culture we learn an infinite amount about ourselves and about the respective society within which the works have been created.

Regina M. Fischer

**OUTLINE OF THE COURSE**

**1. Introduction**

German art? – does this exist? Is there a thing like typical German art?

This is one of the questions that we will have a closer look at during the course of the lecture. How much is German art influenced by other nations or ancient influences?

For this discussion the course looks back on ancient Greek and Romanesque art and the early tribes of Celtic art. The course follows the development of the art from the Middle Ages and the Italian influence of renaissance and baroque style. Typical German styles like for example the Biedermeier and Romanticism are also part of the discussion as the dark chapter of degenerated art and the leading position of Germany at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the expressionists established themselves. The course follows art up to the contemporary variety of styles and techniques.



2. **Early traces:**  
antique, Teutonic and Celtic influences.
  
3. **Development of Christian Churches**
  
4. **The Middle Ages.**  
Influences from France and some specific ways of  
Mysticism



Schlosskirche St. Michael, Pforzheim, 1190-1475

5. **Renaissance – art around 1500**  
**Lukas Cranach**  
**Albrecht Dürer**



Albrecht Dürer, Selfportait, 1500, Oil on Wood, Pinacothek, Munich

6. Baroque and classicism – the last European styles in history of art.  
Palace of Würzburg
7. Romanticism,  
Caspar David Friedrich
8. Typical German, the so called “Biedermeier”  
Carl Spitzweg
9. Art Nouveau - the so called “Jugendstil”, handcrafted furniture,  
architecture and jewellery.  
Art Nouveau, Jewellery at the Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim
10. German avant-garde, Expressionism, the art of “Brücke” and  
“Blauer Reiter”.  
Wassily Kandinsky and Gabriele Münter
11. After 1945, influences of USA
12. German contemporary art  
Summary



Stefan Faas, Oui a lá famille, Pforzheim, 2016, Steel, 5,00 m

## LITERATURE

- Gombrich, E.H., *The Story of Art*, Phaidon, 13th edn. 1982. ISBN 0-7148-1841-0
- Bartrum, Giulia (1995); *German Renaissance Prints, 1490–1550*; British Museum Press, 1995, ISBN 071412604
- Bartrum, Giulia (2002), *Albrecht Dürer and his Legacy*, British Museum Press, 2002, ISBN07141
- Beckwith, John. *Early Medieval Art: Carolingian, Ottonian, Romanesque*, Thames & Hudson, 1964 (rev. 1969), ISBN 0-500-20019-X
- Hamilton, George Heard, *Painting and Sculpture in Europe, 1880–1940* (Pelican History of Art), Yale University Press, revised 3rd edn. 1983 ISBN 0-14-056129-3
- Harbison, Craig. *The Art of the Northern Renaissance*, 1995, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, ISBN 0-297-83512-2
- Schultz, Ellen (ed). *Gothic and Renaissance Art in Nuremberg*, 1986, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, ISBN 978-0-87099-466-1
- Scheyer, Ernst, *Baroque Painting in Germany and Austria: A Gap in American Studies*, *ArtJournal*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Autumn, 1960), pp. 9–18, JSTOR online text
- Snyder, James; *Northern Renaissance Art*, 1985, Harry N. Abrams, ISBN 0-13-623596-4

## METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Writing a paper (and presenting it in class (15 min).

Presentations: Ppt | Paper: documentation, two pages, sources

## COURSE PHILOSOPHY AND FORMAT

As indicated above, this seminar is very much depending on interaction, respectively a lively exchange. The course is taking place on campus, up to 2 sessions might be offered online. Attendance is mandatory.

## Your lecturer

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