This course provides a survey of artworks produced primarily in Europe during the twentieth century, as well as an introduction to their social and historical contexts, their theoretical justifications and critical receptions, and their varied functions. Toward these ends, we will discuss issues of agency and authenticity with regard to modernist, postmodernist, and “post-postmodernist” artistic practices: from the utopianism of Constructivism to the subversions of Dada; from the spontaneity of Art Informel to Nouveau réalisme; as well as more recent trends. Course content includes influential figures such as Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Wassily Kandinsky, Hannah Hoch, Jean Dubuffet, Joseph Beuys, Daniel Buren, and Gerhard Richter.