

Redefining Modernism: Explaining the World at War Through Modern Art, 2010

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Synopsis

World History is an elusive topic for many students. The goal of this unit is to change the perception of World History as a lecture course and at the same time increase the interest in World History as a relevant, worthy subject. Utilizing modern art in the classroom will help change the perception of World History as a boring, lecture course into a class that has multiple facets that offer students a chance to see different views of the world around them. When students are able to experience a topic outside of the perceived norm their interest is piqued. Modern art from the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, YouTube videos, and modern artists such as Kathe Kollwitz and Otto Dix are used to help students gain a deeper understanding of the era defined as The World at War which is defined as World War One, the era between the wars, World War Two, and the Cold War. Modern art will become the bridge between students' personal experiences and the subject taught in class, thereby increasing the likelihood that all students in the class will be able to achieve proficiency in a subject that too often excludes too many.