

Postwar American Avant-Garde (AE 117)
Faculty of English Language and Literature
Department of Literature and Culture
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
School of Philosophy
Course Convenor: Mata Dimakopoulou

Midterm I
Monday 10 November 2014 (12.00-14.00pm)
TIME ALLOWED : 2 hours

You must answer ONE question ONLY

QUESTION 1

Respond to questions (a) to (d) and develop a short critical essay on the emergence of Abstract Expressionism in the postwar period. (a) what are the characteristics and traits that Pollock evokes in "My Painting"? (b) how does Pollock describe his relationship with his work? (c) How do Pollock's ideas about art provide a basis for Clement Greenberg's ideas about modernist painting? (c) can you trace any affinities between Pollock's statement about the relation between the painter and the work of art and the ideas of a postwar American poet that you know?

QUESTION 2

Respond to questions (a) to (d) and develop a short critical essay discussing Allan Kaprow's happenings and the emergence of pop art. (a) What is innovative about the happenings and how do Kaprow's ideas mark a break from Abstract Expressionism? (b) what are Allan Kaprow's claims about art? (c) Do you think that Andy Warhol's pronouncements on art in *The Philosophy of Andy Warhol from A to B and Back again* move beyond Kaprow's claims and how? (d) how does Warhol approach the production and the social function of art?

QUESTION 3

Respond to questions (a) to (d) and develop a short critical essay discussing (a) the main points of the conceptual artists's criticism of the idea of art (b) why they introduce language in the space of the painting by focusing on Mel Bochner's "Language is not Transparent" (1970) (c) do you think that the conceptual artists's critique can be related to the feminist claims about the omission of women artists in the history of art? (d) how does Mary Beth Edelson's "Some Living American Women Artists /Last Supper" (1972) challenge the history of Western art?

