Architecture (continued from last week)

- new materials - especially steel - allowed for increased use of glass
- did architecture create or reflect modern times?
- important architects: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, Erich Mendelsohn
Walter Gropius

- Gropius House, 1938

Mies van der Rohe

- Seagram Building, 1957

Eric Mendelsohn

- Einstein Tower, 1921
Berlin and the Weimar Republic

- Berlin of the 1920s has become synonymous with Weimar culture
- mecca for emerging and immigrant artists
- media and entertainment capitol
- Berlin as symbol of a new age elicited various responses
  - compare Nicholson, Goll, Goebbels readings

Americanization of popular culture

- came with currency stabilization (post-1923)
- “ultramodern and ultraprimitive”
  - modern:
    - fordism
    - city
  - primitive:
    - black culture
    - jazz

The Tiller Girls

...
Josephine Baker

Sex and Gender

- openness towards alternative sexual lifestyles
- openness towards the body in recreational and artistic culture
- new images for women
Cabaret

- short pieces (songs, monologues, skits) held together by vague plotline
- satire/parody of topical issues
  - sexual and gender politics
  - fashions and fads
  - national politics
Cabaret

Marlene Dietrich and Margo Lion, When the Special Girlfriend (1928)

Cinema

- film caught on throughout Europe and America after First World War
- Weimar’s liberalism, lack of censorship encouraged artistic freedom and experimental spirit
- range: from artistic films to commercial entertainments

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, 1919

- “You must become Caligari!”
Metropolis, 1927

M, 1931
- Lang’s first sound film
- rise in serial killings in 1920s inspired film

Expressionism
- ca. 1905-1925
- artistic and literary revolt against realism and naturalism
- representation of the irreal, fantastic world of the subconscious
- distorted representation of outer reality in order to relay an inner vision
- “art doesn’t present the visible, it makes visible” (Paul Klee)
Paula Modersohn-Becker
- Self-portrait 1906

Egon Schiele
- Self-portrait, 1910
- Wife, 1918
Emil Nolde
- Crucifixion 1912

Paul Klee
- Head of a man, 1922

Expressionism in Literature
- distancing from rigid form (especially in poetry)
- same intensity as in arts
- Georg Trakl - poetry
- Franz Kafka - *The Metamorphosis*
- Alfred Döblin - *Berlin Alexanderplatz*
New Objectivity

- expressionistic
- more realistic, socially critical
- in some respects “cooler”, more sober, less emotional
- depiction of work, daily life

Christian Schad

- Self-portrait, 1927

Christian Schad

- Operation, 1929
Christian Schad
- Maika, 1929

Grant Wood
- American Gothic, 1930