

AHIS 466: Studies in Decorative Arts & Design

Fall 2014, Thursdays 2:00-4:50pm, VKC 209

Professor Amy F. Ogata

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-12 or by appointment

In this seminar we will examine the vibrant context of decorative arts and design in Europe c. 1900. Reformist notions of remaking the world through strategies of decoration and the applied arts were debated throughout Europe along with questions about cultural degeneration and renewal. In this course we will explore European centers such as Paris, Brussels, Vienna, Budapest, and Munich, considering especially how Art Nouveau and the international Arts and Crafts Movement intersect with emerging notions of modernity. Thus, in addition to careful attention to objects and interiors, we aim to understand the political, social, and aesthetic shifts that mark this historical moment.

Learning Objectives:

- To explore the art and culture of the turn of the century in Europe
- To familiarize students with a basic understanding of the history of the decorative arts and design and their historical relationship to the fine arts
- To engage in original research using both primary and secondary sources (reading knowledge of German or French is desirable)

Course Requirements:

Students must complete all readings and come to class ready to discuss them. There will be a 5-page paper due in October and a 10-15 page paper due at the end of the course, as well as a short presentation on one or more readings.

Attendance:

I expect students to attend all classes, poor participation and attendance problems will affect your grade. Coursework missed for reasons of illness (accepted only with doctor's note) must be made up in consultation with the instructor.

Course Assignments:

Paper I: For this exercise, I ask you to find an object or image that dates from the turn of the century (c. 1900). This could be a piece of tile, a doorknob, a poster, an object in the Getty Center or LACMA, which has a fine collection of things from this period. Please describe the object carefully and explain how its physical aspects indicate it might date from this period. This exercise will allow me to see how well you write about things and how clearly you express your thoughts. This is NOT a research project but rather an exercise in descriptive and critical writing.

Paper II: This is a research project and I will ask you to meet with me individually to come up with a topic you might want to pursue. I expect the paper to have a clear argument, be well researched (using both primary and secondary sources), and accurately documented. The quality of your writing (expression, grammar, spelling and organization) will affect your grade.

Presentation: Each week, one student will present a reading or a group of short readings. The presentation should introduce the issue the author is addressing, giving a sense of context for who he or she is and how this text fits in with the theme of that week. It can be useful to pose some questions for discussion.

Readings:

Joris-Karl Huysmans, *Against Nature* (Oxford University Press) and the articles and chapters on the Blackboard website.

Grading:

Participation (including presentation): 20%

Short Paper: 30%

Final Paper: 50%

Statement for Students with Disabilities:

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible.

Statement on Academic Integrity:

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. See the Student Guidebook, *SCampus* for the University Student Conduct Code and recommended sanctions.

Emergency Preparedness/Course continuity in a Crisis:

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or dwellings using a combination of Blackboard, teleconference, or other technologies.

Schedule of meetings and readings to discuss

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change.

August 28

Introduction to the Course: Art and Design in the 19th Century

September 4

Degeneration and Decoration

- J. K. Huysmans, *Against Nature* (entire)

Optional: Max Nordau, *Degeneration*, chapter 1

September 11

Decoration, Renewal and the International Arts and Crafts

- William Morris, "The Lesser Arts," (1878)
- Alan Crawford, "United Kingdom: Origins and First Flowering," *The Arts and Crafts Movement in Europe and America* (LACMA, 2008), 21-67.

September 18

French Artists and the Notion of the Decorative

- Edouard Dujardin, "Cloisonnisme," *Symbolist Art Theories*, 177-181.
- G.-Albert Aurier, "Symbolism in Painting: Paul Gauguin," *Symbolist Art Theories*, 192-203.
- Elisa Evett, "The Late Nineteenth-Century Critical Response to Japanese Art: Primitivist Leanings," *Art History*, Vol. 6, no. 1 (March 1983): 82-106.

September 25

Art Nouveau and Symbolism in Belgium

- Henry van de Velde, "A Clean Sweep for the Future of Art," *Symbolist Art Theories*, 117-124.
- Debora L. Silverman, "Art Nouveau: Art of Darkness, African Lineages of Belgian Modernism" *West 86th* no. 2 (2011): 139-181.

October 2

First Paper Due

Interiors, Interiority, Gender

- Walter Benjamin, "Louis-Philippe or the Interior," (1935) *The Arcades Project*, 8-9.
- Juliet Kinchin, "Interiors: Nineteenth-Century Essays on the 'Masculine' and the 'Feminine' Room, *The Gendered Object*, 12-29.
- Debora L. Silverman, *Art Nouveau in Fin-de-Siècle France*, Chapter 1, 17-39.

October 9

Nationalism and the Exposition Universelle, Paris 1900

- Nancy J. Troy, *Modernism and the Decorative Arts in France*, Chapter 1, 7-51.
- A. S. Byatt, *The Children's Book*, 266-304.
- Samuel [Siegfried] Bing, "Where Are We Going?" Frank, *Theory of Decorative Art*, 71-73;
- Bing, "Art Nouveau," *Artistic America, Tiffany Glass and Art Nouveau*, 215-223; 227-251.

Optional: Silverman, *Art Nouveau in Fin-de-Siècle France*, Chapters 14 and 15, 270-283; 284-314.

October 16

Field Trip to LACMA

October 23

Decoration and Nature in Germany

- Howard, *Art Nouveau*, Chapter 3
- Kurt Bayertz, "Biology and Beauty: Science and Aesthetics in fin-de-siècle Germany," *Fin de Siècle and its Legacy*, 278-295.
- Zeynep Çelik Alexander, "Jugendstil Visions: Occultism, Gender and Modern Design Pedagogy," *Journal of Design History* 22, no.3 (2009): 203-226.

Optional: Olaf Breidbach, "Brief Instructions to Viewing Haeckel's Pictures"

October 30

Fin de Siècle Vienna

- Adolf Loos, "Ornament and Crime," *The Theory of the Decorative Arts*, 288-294.
- Leslie Topp, "An Architecture for Modern Nerves: Josef Hoffmann's Purkersdorf Sanatorium," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 56, no. 4 (1997): 414-437.

Optional: Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*, 24-46.

November 6

Modernisme in Barcelona

- Jeremy Howard, *Art Nouveau*, Chapter 4
- Anna Calvera, "The Influence of English Design Reform in Catalonia," *Journal of Design History* 15, no. 2 (2002): 83-100.
- Teresa M. Sala, "Inside Gaudi," *Gaudi Art and Design*, 39-57.

November 13

Urban and Rural in Eastern Europe

- Howard, *Art Nouveau*, Chapter 8
- David Crowley, "The Uses of Peasant Design in Austria-Hungary in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries," *Studies in the Decorative Arts* 2, no. 2 (1995): 2-28.
- Wendy Salmond, *Arts & Crafts in Late Imperial Russia*, Chapter 1.

Optional: Howard, *Art Nouveau*, Chapters 7, 9

November 20

Craft and National Romanticism in Scandinavia

- Howard, *Art Nouveau*, Chapter 11
- Elisabeth Hidemark, "Scandinavia: 'Beauty for All'," *The Arts and Crafts Movement in Europe and America*, 178-217.

Optional: Barbara Miller Lane, *National Romanticism*, Chap 2,

[Thursday November 27 Thanksgiving]

December 4

Return to the Fin de Siècle

- Elizabeth E. Guffey, "When Art Nouveau Became New Again," *Retro: The Culture of Revival* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 7-65.
- "Art: New Art Nouveau," *Time*, March 10, 1958.
- Herbert Muschamp, "The New Arcadia," *New York Times Style Magazine* (Fall 2004): 224.

Optional: Salvador Dali, "De la beauté terrifiante et comestible de l'architecture modern style," *Minotaure* 3-4 (1933): 69-76.

December 16 Final Research Paper due in my box at VKC 351 by 5:00 pm

