

CRAFTING COMMUNITIES

SINCE 2020



Modern Life, Modern Art University of Alberta, Augustana Campus

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Course Description: This 200-level course examines the development of modern life and modern art in the 19th and early-20th centuries. We will focus on modern life in Britain, which had a strong influence across the world due to the expansive reach of the British Empire, as well as select developments in other countries such as France and Germany. Using hands-on, experiential learning, students will explore the visual and material culture of modern life as it developed in these European imperial centres; consider the ways that artists and designers responded to their changing visual and material environments; and reflect on the legacies of modern life and modern art in our 21st-century lives.

Course Objectives: This course focuses on developing skills in **critical reflection** while engaging in hands-on activities and crafting practices, including collage, embroidery, making rag rugs, and quilting. Students will NOT be assessed on the quality of their crafts, but rather on their ability to synthesize scholarly arguments with personal experience in critical reflections.

By the end of the term, students will be able to...

- Explain the meanings of the key terms “modernity” and “modernism” and the relationship between them;
- Identify and discuss components of scholarly arguments presented in course readings;
- Apply scholarly arguments while reflecting on personal experiences with materials and crafting activities (demonstrated through critical reflection assignments); and
- Find primary sources using library databases.

Assignments:

- 2 responses to key terms (Modernity & Modernism)
- 2 critical reflections (on Crafting Thaumatrope & Exploring Modern Print Media)
- Midterm Project: Collage and Critical Reflection
- Final Project: Textile Craft (rag rug or crazy quilt) and Critical Reflection

Readings and Class Topics	Crafting Projects and Assignments
<p>Introduction to Critical Crafting and Reflection Critical Reflection Assignment Instructions</p> <p>“Crafting in the Classroom: Hands-On Approaches to Victorian Material Culture,” JVC Online, 13 July 2021.</p>	
<p>What is Modernity? Barker, Chris, and Emma A. Jane. <i>Cultural Studies : Theory and Practice</i>. 5th edition, SAGE, 2016. Start with “Defining the Terms” on p.213, read to the end of section on p. 219.</p> <p>“J.M. Whistler’s ‘The Fleet: Monitors,’” in the <i>Victorian Things</i> exhibition and listen to an interview with Shalini Le Gall in “Victorian Visual Arts,” Episode 5 of Victorian Samplings. Listen from 19:20 to 33:30.</p>	<p>Response: What is Modernity?</p>
<p>Modernity and Ways of Seeing For introduction and background: Dunne, Carey. “Hypnotic Gifts of Victorian Optical Toys.” <i>Hyperallergic</i>, 29 Dec. 2015.</p> <p>Bak, Meredith. Selections from Ch. 2, “Seeing Things: Optical Play at Home.” In <i>Playful Visions : Optical Toys and the Emergence of Children’s Media Culture</i>. MIT Press, 2020.</p>	<p><i>Make a thaumatrope using the tutorial on the Crafting Communities website:</i> https://www.craftingcommunities.net/thaumatropes</p> <p>Critical Reflection on thaumatrope craft</p>
<p>What is Modernism? Barker, Chris, and Emma A. Jane. <i>Cultural Studies : Theory and Practice</i>. 5th edition, SAGE, 2016. Start with “Modernism as aesthetic style” on p.219, read to the end of section on “Modernisms,” p.223.</p>	<p>Response: What is “Modernism”?</p>
<p>19th-Century Pictorial Print and Media Literacy Hedley, Alison. Selections from Ch.1, “The Illustrated London News, Popular Illustrated Journalism, and the New Media Landscape, 1885–1907.” In <i>Making Pictorial Print: Media Literacy and Mass Culture in British Magazines, 1885-1918</i>. University of Toronto Press, 2021, pp. 26-62.</p> <p>Workshop: Using databases to explore modern print media</p>	<p>Critical Reflection on exploring print modern media</p>

<p>19th-Century Scrapbooking <i>“Yes, This is My Album”</i>: Victorian Collections of Scraps, Signatures, and Seaweeds, 2021, University of Victoria Libraries Digital Exhibits, https://exhibits.library.uvic.ca/spotlight/scrapbooks.</p> <p>“William Macready & Charles Dickens’s Scrap Screen,” “Frederick Langston’s Scrapbook,” and “Ella Kidman’s Autograph Album,” in the <i>Victorian Things</i> exhibition.</p>	<p><i>Explore 19th-Century Scrapbooking using the tutorial on the Crafting Communities website:</i> https://www.craftingcommunities.net/victorian-scrapbooking</p>
<p>Modern Art & Collage Etgar, Yuval. “On Edge: Exploring Collage Tactics and Terminology.” <i>Cut and Paste: 400 Years of Collage</i>, National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, 2019. pp. 35-48.</p> <p>Lucas Crawford's “Trans Formations,” in <i>Architectural Review</i>, no. 1483, July 2021, pp. 80–83.</p>	<p>Collage Project + Critical Reflection</p>
<p>Introduction to Textiles Explore the Agnes’s online exhibition History is Rarely Black or White</p> <p>Watch <i>The True Cost</i>, 2015 documentary, 92 minutes.</p>	<p><i>Learn eyelet embroidery using the tutorial on the Crafting Communities website:</i> https://www.craftingcommunities.net/broderie-anglaise</p>
<p>Design Reform, the Grammar of Ornament, and the Kashmir Shawl Dohmen, Renate. Selections from “Indian Crafts and Empire.” In <i>Empire and Art : British India</i>. Manchester University Press, 2017. Read pp. 72-79 and 96-105.</p> <p>“Tea Gown,” in the <i>Victorian Things</i> exhibition</p>	
<p>Arts and Crafts Approaches Hart, Imogen. “Time and the Everyday in the Work of William Morris,” in <i>William Morris and the Art of Everyday Life</i>, 2010.</p> <p>“The ‘Ladies Carpet’,” in the <i>Victorian Things</i> exhibition; and “Amelia Wood’s Conversation Tube and Pouch,” in the <i>Victorian Things</i> exhibition</p>	<p><i>Make a rag rug using the tutorial on the Crafting Communities website:</i> https://www.craftingcommunities.net/rag-rugs</p>
<p>Making and Makers: Contemporary Responses to the Victorians Warne, Vanessa, and Jessie Krahn. “Making and Makers”</p>	

<p><i>Victorian Samplings</i>, Season 1 Episode 1, <i>Crafting Communities</i>, https://www.craftingcommunities.net/victorian-samplings.</p> <p>A selection of relevant contemporary artists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yinka Shonibare: https://yinkashonibare.com/ - Daniel Fountain: https://www.danielfountain.com/ - Hannah Claus: https://www.hannahclaus.net/ - Drew McKevitt: https://www.drewmckevitt.com - Kim McCollum: https://www.kimmccollumart.com/ 	
<p>Textiles from the Bauhaus to Black Mountain College Fer, Briony. "Anni Albers: Weaving Magic – Tate Etc." <i>Tate</i>, vol. 1, no. 44, 2018,</p> <p>Fer, Briony. "Black Mountain College Exercises." <i>Anni Albers</i>, edited by Ann Coxon, Briony Fer, and Maria Müller-Schareck, Tate Publishing, 2018, pp. 65-67.</p>	<p>Textile Project (make a Rag Rug or a Crazy Quilt) and Critical Reflection</p>