

COURSES FOR SPRING 2014

Art History Courses >

AHCS 120 Introduction To Visual Culture

Introduces major methodological and critical approaches used in art history and criticism. You will focus on similarities and differences between theoretical agendas, the significant and national contexts in which these theories develop, and their relevance to art making and critical practice.

AHCS 121 Modern Art History

This comprehensive survey of twentieth-century European and American art reviews and discusses all major movements from a contemporary perspective. This course covers Cubism and Dada, the Russian Avant-Garde and German Expressionism, Surrealism and the Bauhaus, and American Modernism and Abstract Expressionism examined within the political and social context of each period.

AHCS 121 Honors Modern Art History (*HONORS Only*)

The Honors Modern Art History sequence is an interdisciplinary/team taught course that continues the thematic approach begun in fall semester and also links with the Spring Honors English course.

AHCS 220 Postmodern Theory II

Way back in the day, Aristotle, Kant, and Nietzsche defined our beliefs about truth, beauty, pleasure and what makes good art. Here you study current thinkers who respect but question old-school ideas to see if they're as true as once thought. >>>*Required for all Fine Arts Majors*

Discipline Specific Art History Electives

Some courses are restricted by major.

AHCS 222 History of Graphic Design, Illustration, and Advertising

This course provides a critical and contextualized chronological survey of graphic design, illustration and advertising. Students learn how these disciplines responded to and affected political, cultural, and social changes with a primary emphasis on the 20th century. You will also have a Monday session in addition to class on Tuesday. >>>*Required for all Communication Arts Majors*

AHCS 225 Product Design History

This course provides an introduction to the relationship between design and functionality in objects created throughout human history. An emphasis is placed on understanding designed objects in their broad socio-cultural context. Special emphasis is placed on consumer products since the Industrial Revolution. >>>*Required for all Product Design Majors*

AHCS 236 History of Toys

This course provides a historical, cultural, and social perspective on toys and games with discussions on their creation and use. Students will also learn about the development of the global toy industry. >>>*Required for all Toy Design Majors*

AHCS 310 The Cinematic City (BLENDED)

The Cinematic City invites you to participate in its fascinating past, fluctuating present and imagined future! We will learn about the historical significance of films and movie theaters in Los Angeles as well as more contemporary developments such as film festivals and independent theaters. As a hybrid-learning course, we will also attend a variety of screenings throughout Los Angeles and examine important several cultural sites of exhibition including museums, festivals and independent theaters.

AHCS 310 Art and Issues of the 2000s

This interactive course features art that engages political, social and economic concerns and examines the impact art has upon the wired and connected world of today.

AHCS 310 Culture of Display

From World Fairs to World Cup games, from art fairs to museums, this course will look at “display”, which blends pleasure and ideologies, be it capitalism or nationalism, in spectacles of sight and sound. This course will address globalization, post-colonialism, and the themes of creativity, identity, diversity and social responsibility.

AHCS 310 Sex and Cinema (BLENDED)

From the beginning, the cinema has sought to titillate and provoke. Sex continues to be its most controversial subject matter. You will explore the complex relationship between sex and the cinema, from industry regulation to individual artistic choices.

AHCS 310 Asia in Imagination

In the early 20th century, many Americans knew Asia and Asians from literature and feature films such as *Broken Blossoms*, *The Good Earth*, Charlie Chan and Fu Manchu movies. Many of these were based on superficial knowledge gleaned from limited sources, current events and international relationships, and colored by a need to create the Exotic Other. This course will explore both the construction/imposition of racial identity and some real results such as widespread prejudices and restrictive legislation. We will examine the creation of stereotypes, as well as recent attempts to counter them in television shows such as Margaret Cho in *All-American Girl* and the films of Justin Lin.

In addition to looking at film and television, we'll also include examples from the world of advertising and fashion.

AHCS 310 American Film

This course surveys the art and business of American films in the latter half of the 20th century. The approach includes film and sociology, film genres and the great American directors.

AHCS 310 Art of Resistance & Social Change

This course explores the role of art (visual, narrative and performance arts) and art-making in various forms of resistance as well as a central tool in organized activist movements for social change.

AHCS 310 Contemporary Hong Kong Film

Hong Kong has an extremely exciting and interesting national cinema, and this course explores the major films, genres, directors, and industrial trends in Hong Kong since the early 1970s, engaging in aesthetic, historical, and cultural analysis of representational films.

AHCS 310 Fashion Culture

The scope of the course is designed to critically examine the way in which fashion is an embodied activity, and one that is embedded within social relations. The emphasis will be on the formation of identity through fashion's articulation of the body, gender, and sexuality. Students learn and critically evaluate major theories of contemporary fashion design through interdisciplinary textual, visual, and hands-on inquiry. Throughout the course contemporary fashion design issues will be considered in relation to the following Liberal Studies themes: diversity, creativity, sustainability, globalization, identity.

AHCS 310 Video, New Media and the Image

How do new media define contemporary art practices? From the early origin of cinema to interactive media, art had always played a pivotal role in both shaping and using images as its language. This course explores contemporary art practices that either integrate or investigate new media as means of expression. We will follow the history and present uses of cinema, video art and new technological mediations, such as computer interactive interfaces, Internet, film and new genres in art, which redefine

the boundaries of art.

AHCS 310 Pop Art and Its Legacy

This course addresses the history of Pop Art from its beginnings in postwar Britain to its triumph in '60s America. We look at the paradigm change that opened up modern art to popular culture and the lasting effect it had on what constitutes art.

English Courses >

Foundation English

ENGL 090 Developmental English II

The skills of invention, drafting, revising and editing are practiced in four to five essays which include at least three drafts each. Students write narratives, text-based essays, persuasive essays, etc., along with reading short non-fiction works. A minimum grade of "C" (2.0) is required to pass this course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of ENGL 050 Developmental English I or placement through the English Placement Assessment.

ENGL 104 Critical Analysis and Semiotics

Engage in the world of cultural signs (semiotics) by examining popular culture with a special emphasis on media literacy, technology, the American national character, and issues of power and ideology. Through critical and analytical reading, effective academic writing, and discussion, we will explore themes of relativity, identity and sustainability of lifestyle. A minimum grade of "C" (2.0) is required to pass this course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of ENGL090 Developmental English II or placement through the English Placement Exam.

ENGL 106 Composition and Critical Thought

English Composition and Critical Thinking (ENGL 106) is a 3-unit freshmen level expository writing course with an emphasis on content and rhetorical styles. The course encourages students to develop a sustainable voice, which will make their writing clear and convincing, creative, interesting, and readable. Students will explore issues of creativity, identity, diversity and social responsibility. A minimum grade of "C" (2.0) is required to pass this course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of ENGL 104 Critical Analysis and Semiotics or placement through the English Placement Assessment.

Sophomore English

ENGL 202 Short Shorts

This course introduces students to the short story, from its origins in ancient myth to its current home in Twitter, and the ways in which a diverse range of writers have used the language of brevity to stretch the imagination. Readings will include hilarious, tragic, and unpredictable classic and digital age shorts that surprise us in their revelations about identity, culture, and the human condition.

ENGL 202 O-Zine

Create an Otis zine! This class will create an online magazine for Otis to be published every week. It will be run like a blog with a constant stream of videos, photos, and articles exploring life at Otis and issues that are important for Otis students. Issues to be explored include: videos of getting around LA without a car, a photo spread of best Halloween costumes, articles about the intimate culture of a particular department, and etc. Blog your visit to Mattel, review a Ben Maltz show, write an exposé of the Otis underground scene!

ENGL 202 Creative Writing

Introduces fundamental elements of imaginative writing: sensory detail, voice, dialogue, character,

setting, and narrative structure. Weekly writing experiments are shared and discussed in a workshop format. Requirements include weekly readings, written feedback, on peers' manuscripts, and attendance at Otis' Visiting Writers Series.

ENGL 202 Playwrights & Performances

What is the purpose of theater? What sparks creativity? Via contemporary playwrights, we will explore the themes of social responsibility, identity and creativity. Plays by Tony Kushner, Marsha Norman, Wendy Wasserstein, Aruther Miller and Michael Frayn were inspired by Shakespearean sonnets, the House of Un-American Activities, hip-hop culture, and physicists meeting in secrecy to discuss the internal functions of the atomic bomb. We will break these texts down into beats, direct and perform the climactic scenes, and write and direct our own one-act plays. Through re-reading, rehearsal, research, writing and analysis, we will consider the playwright as an activist. We will discover our personal and cultural needs for expression, audience, tragedy and comedy.

ENGL 202 L. A. Literature

This course focuses on the literary and cinematic portrayals of the complex urban phenomenon we know as Los Angeles and the cultures and perspectives which have shaped its history.

ENGL 202 Literature and Madness

Students will read poems, fiction, and nonfiction to study how mental illness is depicted in Literature. Through works such as *The Bell Jar*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Catcher in the Rye*, students will explore various identities, the creative process, and the representation of mental illness in society and literature.

ENGL 202 H Honors English (*HONORS Only*)

Honors English is a two-semester course of study focusing on modern and contemporary literature. We read drama in the fall and short fiction in the spring. In both cases there is a strong emphasis on exploratory writing techniques and styles, and parallel readings in critical theory. This course is thematically linked to AHCS 120 Introduction to Visual Culture, 121 Honors Visual Culture and Modern Art History.

Advanced Topics in English

ENGL 400 In Their Own Words: Artists Speak About Living a Creative Life

Through reading autobiographies, journals, essays, engaging with guest artists and watching documentary films, students learn from the Masters what it is like and what it takes to commit to living a creative life.

ENGL 400 Literature: Black Arts Movement

This course explores literature surrounding the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and '70s. The writers of this era bore witness to a volatile and groundbreaking time in American history. During this class, students examine its themes, motifs, and inspirations as well as evaluate the Black Arts Movement's impact on the canon.

ENGL 400 Literature and Film: Journey & Quest

This course focuses on literary and cinematic narratives which engage the universal human phenomenon of travel, quest, journey and pilgrimage; elemental themes situated at the heart of storytelling.

ENGL 400 Reel Docs

This course presents nonfiction cinema about real people and critical issues that shape our lives and the world in which we live. Nonfiction films will be viewed as agents of change, critically and aesthetically and we will examine the power of the medium to educate, enrich and even change lives.

ILML Integrated Learning Courses >

REGISTRATION RESTRICTED FOR THESE COURSES.
SEE ALLISON KNIGHT in 606A FOR INFORMATION.

Sophomore Integrated Learning Courses

ILML 200 "Homeboy" Histories

This IL class will focus on transnational gang violence and the globalization of gangs. Our site partner, Homies Unidos, is a non-profit organization focused on helping ex-gang members to become productive members of society. Our class will engage a conversation with ex-gang members to explore issues of identity, creativity, and globalization through research and design of "socially responsible engagement" as artists and designers. Ethnographic research and meaningful readings will help us achieve our goal of understanding of this urban phenomenon.

ILML 200 Branding X

Create a brand! Let's go out into the community to understand the needs of a non-profit serving us. We will collaborate with them to analyze and understand their story. Using this information we will create an identity in a logo, website and other material to help them serve and to help us learn to brand.

ILML 200 Food Politics

Food and access to land are fundamental human concerns across cultures and throughout history. Food insecurity is experienced the world over and generally among poor or low-income populations. However, if we draw connections between the finite resources used to bring food to our table and consumption practices the world over, we see that food insecurity concerns us all. This class explores the current proliferation of community gardens (and urban farms) that stand as collaborative, creative, grassroots efforts aimed at establishing socially responsible, sustainable solutions to contemporary food production, distribution and consumption practices that are ultimately tied to larger global concerns. Using ethnographic theories and methods (e.g., fieldwork, participant-observation, interviews, documentation) students will analyze the ways our site partner Holy Nativity Community Garden is engaged in local efforts to developing long term, community supported solutions to create sustainable food resources for people in food insecure neighborhoods but also to create awareness across communities regarding the effects of climate change and consumption on our food choice. Academic work will be complimented by hands-on experience visiting a garden, learning to grow food, taking part in gardening activities and hearing from key members. More importantly, students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively and across disciplines to develop socially responsible and sustainable solutions to address hunger, land use and consumption.

ILML 200 Creating Children's Culture

Site partners: 826LA. | How do children actively and creatively embrace, resist, expand and complicate the culture made for them? How do they participate in culture made by them and how do these areas intersect? We will meet regularly with our off-site partners (a national non-profit focused on fostering a love of reading in kids) where students will collaborate one-on-one with children from the community to produce their final project. This course focuses on the expressive culture of childhood: games, toys, rhymes, subversive humor and imaginative play. Students will keep a field journal, learning to collect data and write ethnography.

ILML 200 Movies That Matter

Mentor: Judy Arthur, Film Marketing Consultant | Site Partner: FilmAid International

As artists and designers, students need to understand that movies can inspire and educate as well as entertain. In this class students will gain a historical perspective to understand the past and present in order to visualize the future. Through compelling and entertaining stories, the selected films depict social, political, cultural and gender, racial and ethnic issues.

ILML 200 Designing the Political*Site Partner: the Center for the Study of the Political Graphics*

Can design stop a war? Can it topple political structures? Can design conquer social injustice? This course investigates the role of artists and designers as powerful agents of protest and progress. Emphasis will be placed on a historical contextualization of political graphics to learn more about the role of propaganda, the face of the enemy, and the power of the visual text to shape the perception of the “other” for better or worse.

ILML 200 Clay in L.A.*Mentor: Jo Lauria, former Los Angeles County Art Museum Decorative Arts Assistant Curator.*

Students will go on field trips to various exhibitions to understand LA history in painting, sculpture, metal, wood, weaving, and public art.

ILML 200 Museum of Social Justice

Site partner: Museum of Social Justice | The course will explore the ways in which sustainability, cultural memory, diversity and identity are expressed and engaged in the creative possibilities of an integrated group project that focuses on generating a museum as a platform of archival research, ideation and creative engagement with communities. This course explores how cultural memory related to La Plaza Methodist Church in Olvera Street connects with cultural memory and communal identity with social-creative engagement.

ILML 201 Human Ecology

The course is designed to engage students in the practice of collaborative, integrative and multi-disciplinary research needed for creating sustainable futures.

Discipline Specific Liberal Studies Electives > Some courses are restricted by major.

LIBS 410 Mary in Folk Art and Belief

Like no other figure the Virgin Mary can be ascertained as the most influential female in Western culture. Celebrated in songs, poetry, plastic and graphic arts, and politics her influence pervades every aspect of our culture. Artists have taken possession of Mary and dreamed her in a multitude of icons. Mary is indeed the Muse of the West. Through history Mary has defined the proper role of women in Western society as mothers, wives and companions. However, the human and divine traits of this magnificent conception raised the bar for both men and women by presenting ideological models that placed her above and beyond human emulation. Our class seeks to study the way in which folk art and folk belief adds yet another layer of meaning to the idea of Mary. We will study folk narratives, and folk representations of Mary in the visual arts as well as in folk traditions. As part of our enquiry, we will also analyze how pop culture is making Mary a highly visible icon of identity and fashion.

LIBS 410 Afro-Caribbean Ritual Art

Our class will be concerned with the survivals, continuities, and innovations of West African Spirituality in the Caribbean. We will explore how the rich history and migration patterns influenced the religious culture and the politics of race and color in what scholars had termed “The Black Atlantic.” The class will explore how Western values expressed through Christian values had been negotiated to produce the religious expressions we know today as African-based religions. These religious expressions are cognitive maps that guide the population through gender politics, perception of ethnic self, and above all access to the divine. Music, folk art, and religious performances will be at the center of our inquiry.

LIBS 410 Contemporary Music Issues

Throbbing gristle to Theremin; Cage to Kode 9; The Art of Noise to Merzbow; Stockhausen to DJ Spooky.

Gain some understanding of the issues and processes that have shaped contemporary music culture through listening, research, writing and oral presentations.

LIBS 410 Media Culture

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the dynamic interactions that exist between the self, media, society, and culture. It is meant to impart a sense of the forces guiding our involvement in this nexus and the accompanying consumption of media products like books, TV, radio, games and even toys. We will learn about the history of media systems directed at mass audiences, the major trends in effects research, and the general impact of the large-scale industrial production of culture.

LIBS 410 Disney's America (*TOYD Seniors Only*)

Love it or hate it, Disney has played a significant part in shaping American identity, history, and popular culture. We will read from biographies of Walt Disney himself, histories of Disneyland's construction and early goals, critical perspectives on Disney's representation of race and gender, and cultural analyses of Disney's animated films and their role in shaping American childhood. Through reading responses, independent research, and a creative final project, you will learn to deconstruct the ideology beneath the imagery.

LIBS 412 Teaching and Learning II

This course builds on its prerequisite, Teaching for Learning I, while emphasizing the stages of human and aesthetic development in youth and adults. Students will synthesize study of cultural backgrounds and proficiency levels as they relate to the role of the visual arts in human development. Topics include curriculum development, art museum and community based audiences, public artists and designers working with city planning boards, critical pedagogy, ESOL, Special Education, engaging teaching styles, and best practices. >>> *Required for students in the ACT program.*

LIBS 440 Capstone (*SENIORS Only - BLENDED*)

The Liberal Arts and Sciences capstone is a senior level course where students identify and critically reflect on a theme that intersects their own studio practice or discipline and their work in Liberal Studies. The capstone encompasses work relevant to a wide range of disciplines, representing the culminating expression of a liberal arts education and outcomes that prepares art and design students for future success in a wide range of personal, professional, and social endeavors. In addition to a major research and writing component, students may demonstrate learning through the inclusion of projects that represent their individual studio interests. A minimum grade of "C" (2.0) is required to pass this course.

LIBS 454 Business Practices

The first half of this course provides an introduction to business strategy, economics, finance and marketing. The second half teaches students how to write a business plan for their own companies. Lectures by visiting toy industry professionals are included. >>> *Required for TOYD Seniors.*

MATH Courses >

MATH 136 Math for Artists and Designers

This course explores the connections between math and art in two and three dimensions. The class includes an exploration of Escher's work, tilting the plane, fractals and the golden ratio. It also covers topics such as graphing equations and geometric constructions.

MATH 246 Trigonometry

This course is designed to give students an understanding of two main reasons for studying trigonometry. One of these is as a means of introducing students to certain functions that appear in science courses. This goal will be accomplished most expediently by using a so-called functional approach to trigonometry. The other reason for studying trigonometry is as practical tool for approximating distances and angle measurements in surveying, navigation, astronomy, etc. The mathematical concepts

to be covered are purposely chosen because of their applications to art. >>> **Required for ARLI Majors. Can be taken as MATH 136 for all other students.**

Natural Science Courses >

NSCI 305 Science and Sustainable Design

Sustainable design is concerned with the processes and outcomes to meet a world that is growing increasingly conscious of the significant impacts of art and design on the world's ecological systems and human kind. Through a predominantly science-based approach, students will study approaches to sustainability.

NSCI 307 The Psychology of Seeing

If you can see no colors at all, you cannot see white either. You recognize an old friend, even though she has changed. Your brain constructs these experiences, but how? And what happens when the brain doesn't work normally?

NSCI 307 Imagination and the Brain

Why can you imagine a new space monster, but not a new color? The worlds you can imagine are shaped by the way the brain constructs imagery. Thus, mental images leave their traces in the art you make.

NSCI 319 Anatomy and Ergonomics

This course utilizes the principles of physics to understand human anatomy as a mechanical system. Emphasis is placed on physiological issues related to age, gender, and physical disabilities. Consideration is also given to the implications of these principles for applied ergonomics.

>>>**Required for Product Design majors.**

Social Sciences >

SSCI 130 Cultural Studies

This class explores what happens when diverse cultures interact across groups of gender, language, ethnicities, sexual orientation, etc., and how culture is perceived and transmitted. Students write field observations, evaluate media, and participate in individual and group presentations. Lectures, simulations and assignments are designed to increase the students' observational skills and decrease intercultural and racial misunderstandings.

Discipline Specific Social Science Electives >

Non-majors may not be able to enroll in some of these courses.

SSCI 210 Food Customs & Symbolism

Along with air, water, shelter and sex, food is considered a basic human need. Class, gender, ethnicity, environment, vocation, religious belief and social values are all topics that affect what, when, and how we eat. In this course we will read essays, see films and through thoughtful class discussion, analyze the role of food in contemporary culture. We will examine why certain foods are taboo to certain people, consider issues of nutrition and health, and the dichotomy of a world with problems of hunger and obesity. In addition to these very serious topics, we will also look at the social aspects of food, and the ways we enjoy being social through eating, especially as it relates to meeting, mating and celebrating.

SSCI 210 Fairy Tales, Legends & Storytelling

Everybody loves a good yarn. Students will explore the worlds created in oral narratives. The types of tales discussed include myths, folktales, urban legends and personal experience narratives. We will examine these rich narratives as well as the history and theory surrounding them. Students will perform

ethnography with their choice of storyteller and write a field research paper about their tale-telling. Students will also read lots of great stories, watch film adaptations of well-known folktales, and tell tales of their own.

SSCI 210 Introduction to Psychology

This class will provide a foundation for understanding theories and basic concepts in psychology. The course will increase comprehension of the various applications of psychology to everyday life including the increasing visibility of psychology issues present in popular culture. This application will serve to facilitate comprehension of student's own identity and diversity. Self-discovery activities will be completed throughout the course to allow students to learn about the application of psychological concepts to their own lives. The textbook's emphasis on diversity provides sections highlighting exploration of culture and diversity which ask students to reflect upon the various influences that impact the study of psychology.

SSCI 210 Working It

In your life you encounter working people everywhere, whether it is an office worker, restaurant waiter/waitress, college professor, animator, art gallery owner, bus/taxi driver, flight attendant, doctor/nurse, etc. In "Working It" you'll learn about various work cultures and their uniforms, rituals, training, jokes, workplace decorations, and other diverse characteristics of a job. Assignments include photo essay, written essays, reading responses, and an edited audio piece (a.k.a audioscape). The audioscape will be submitted to a radio program or podcast series for broadcast consideration.

SSCI 212 Teaching for Learning I (*A.C.T. Only*)

This course provides a historical overview of education; art development theories and philosophies; as well as social theories. Students are introduced to models of art education such as student centered, discipline based, and project based teaching through the arts. Topics will include student populations, learning styles, popular youth culture, diversity, inclusion, classroom management, and health and safety issues in the classroom. Contemporary artists and designers who teach as part of their practices will also be discussed. Required for students in both minors of ACT Program.

>>> *Required for students in the ACT program.*