

COURSES TAUGHT FOR SPRING 2013

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 Art History sequence offers a more challenging approach toward the material covered by the regular Modern Art History courses. This course is thematically linked to ENGL 202 H Honors English.

Each AHCS 220 course below addresses a contemporary issue in art & design. *Choose one.*

AHCS 220 Dissing Descartes/Messing with Marx

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 (*COMM Majors*)

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 (*PD Majors*)

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 (TOY Majors)

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 Sex and Cinema

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 Text and Image (BLENDED)

Examine image-text relationships across media, focusing on image narratives, "closure," sequencing techniques, adaptation, artists' books, the roles of text as imagery in the work of contemporary visual artists, and more.

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 Production Cultures (BLENDED)

Students will think critically about contemporary practices in the film and television industry in Los Angeles by analyzing key films, videos and television shows about "Hollywood." In particular, we will examine important shifts in authorship, labor and technology from the studio system to the present and how they are represented on and off screen.

AHCS 310 Contemporary Art in China & Japan

Explore the exciting postwar art of Asian superpowers China and Japan. While Japan easily embraced contemporary forms, in movements from Gutai to Superflat (Murakami, Nara), China first embraced Socialist Realism, then more recently Political Pop, performance and installation art (Ai Weiwei, Cai Guoqiang).

AHCS 310 American Film: 1950 to the Present

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.

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 Genre Benders (BLENDED)

Literary works can defy expectations, crossing and redefining genre boundaries. Explore the strange, hybrid forms that fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction can take. Write your own cross-genre pieces that surprise and delight, and participate in a genre-bending live performance.

ENGL 202 The Original Young Adult Novels

Before "Harry Potter," before "Twilight," before the term "young adult" even existed, there were novels written about the adolescent experience. Through readings, discussions, book presentations and papers we will seek to understand the machinations of the teenager as presented in literature.

ENGL 202 Creative Writing

Introduces fundamental elements of imaginative writing: sensory detail; voice; dialogue; character; setting; 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 Coming of Age Story

Tumble down a rabbit-hole to Wonderland, joy ride a stolen hears with Maude, follow Harry into the forbidden Deathly Hallows. Discover how the journey to adulthood captured in literature and film can reflect your own search for identity.

ENGL 202 Playwrights & Performances

Theater is not dead. Explore storytelling through plays and performances. Read and research dramatic texts, learn how dramatists use language, and consider why performance is necessary. Write, design, and perform your own works; prove that theater is alive.

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 Writing the Short Screenplay

A creative writing course that teaches students the fundamental concepts of filmic writing. Students will read screenplays and film related articles each week as a basis for discussions. In class, we will watch

movie clips to learn the basics of creating characters, setting, and plot. There will be in-depth writing exercises to help students develop their own stories.

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 and Film

This course focuses on the literary and film culture and history of the urban phenomenon we know as Los Angeles and the ways that the city has been displayed and conveyed as a unique space.

ILML Integrated Learning Courses > REGISTRATION RESTRICTED FOR THESE COURSES SEE MARSHA HOPKINS FOR INFORMATION

Sophomore Integrated Learning Courses

ILML 200 Urban Farming In LA

In this class we will learn ethnographic theories and methods (e.g., fieldwork, participant-observation, interviews, documentation) that we will apply to deepening our understanding of the ways urban farming and community gardens affect people's lives.

ILML 200 Public Art: LAX

This course develops an alliance between the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and Otis College of Art and Design. The Public Art division oversees 12 locations and a myriad of public programs that connect artists within our community.

ILML 200 Healing Arts of Indigenous

In partnership with the downtown Farm Lab, students will have the unique opportunity to learn about the practices of traditional healing and health and its unique presence within Los Angeles.

ILML 200 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 200 Olvera Street's Museum of Social Justice

This course will explore how cultural and historical memory related to the La Plaza Methodist Church in Olvera Street connects with issues of cultural memory and sustainability, diversity and communal identity and social-creative engagement.

ILML 200 Examining Civil Rights

Course Mentor: Robert Johnson | Site Partner: California African American Museum

The Civil Rights movement made far reaching strides during 1956–1968. Students will discuss how this era reshaped American history, society, and culture from a multi-disciplinary perspective. This course will also examine the events, figures, and issues central to the Civil Rights movement.

ILML 200 Beasts of Myth and Fancy

How do societies codify their values and fears through fantastic creations? What are the processes behind the culturally fabulous creatures that had become synonymous with societies, religion, and politics? Library and electronic research will enable you to understand the forces behind these cultural creations.

ILML 200 Clay in LA

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 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.

Senior Integrated Learning Courses

ILML 400 The Spaces in Between

Mentor: Lara Hoad

Modern architecture, use of space, cultural perspectives on place and the stories we create about these sites will be explored in this course. Students will comment upon the Getty 'Overdrive' exhibit by creating an 'experience' for the Getty's College Night.

ILML 400 Branding Otis

Site Partner: Public Presence Committee

Mentor: Sue Maberry

Do you want to design a real website? Do you have the perfect words and images to show the world what Otis is all about? Here's your chance. Students will have the opportunity to contribute to the branding of the Otis website. By analyzing successful educational and commercial sites, students will identify some of the problems inherent in the current website. Students will then be guided to work in small teams to design a solution to these problems. At the end, the best solutions will be presented to the Public Presence Committee who oversees the Otis brand.

ILML 400 LA Past Lives: The Barnsdall Art Park

An introductory course geared at generating an on-line archival display of Los Angeles' past/present communities. In this integrated learning course, we will reconstruct past cultural, architectural, and social nexuses related to the Barnsdall Art Park and Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House in particular.

ILML 400 Nurturing Identity & Community

Site partner: Community Garden

This course investigates the ethnographic theories and methods related to community gardens and the ways they creatively address environmental justice issues such as food insecurity, access to health and the right to green spaces at the local level.

ILML 400 Creative Children's Culture

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, 826LA (a national nonprofit focused on fostering a love of reading and writing in kids), where students will collaborate one-on-one with children from the community to produce their final project.

ILML 400 Homeboys: Histories and Culture

This course explores personal experience narratives and how they are expressed in the visual arts by their narrators. In addition, this course focuses on identity and the way in which it is expressed: political, ethnic, and social identities serving as markers for social mobility and control.

ILML 400 Movies That Matter

This course presents cinema about real issues that shape our lives. We encourage dialogue and exchange, while examining the processes and creative possibilities the art of film has presented through stories that attempt to make a difference in how we see the world around us.

ILML 400 Life Stages

Working collectively to create an original script exploring personal identity, family history and

intergenerational issues, by interviewing elders at Culver City Senior Center. Culminating in a performance/reading at the center, for the seniors and their families.

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

LIBS 235 Economics in the Product Market (PD Majors)

This course is a survey of Microeconomic principles, including supply and demand, consumer preferences, elasticity of demand, costs, and market structures. The effects of each of these in determining prices in various types of product markets will be examined in connection with current student projects. >>>**Required for Product Design majors.**

LIBS 410 Secret Societies and Conspiracy Theories

Secret societies and conspiracy theories abound but do you know their origin and rationale? Why do they still fascinate us? Are these forces at work today> how can you prove or disprove their influence? You will reach your own conclusions once you have engaged in the historical and documental analysis.

LIBS 410 Belief & Culture

An overview of the variety of ways humans have constructed their belief systems. An interdisciplinary approach will allow us to examine how religious belief finds its way into all aspects of the life of a people. Using the archetype of the trickster will provide a focal point to shape our interpretations.

LIBS 410 Occupational Culture

Every workplace has a culture. Examine work related stories, rituals, tricks of the trade, jokes, uniforms, celebrations, artistic creations, settings, simulations, hierarchies of power/status, and other characteristics of diverse occupations. Assignments include field research, papers, an audioscape, and fieldtrips.

LIBS 410 Fairy Tales and New Media (blended)

Fairy tales are a flexible genre, stretching to encompass ever-changing audiences, social themes, cultural ideologies, and modes of expression. From mouth to ear, page to eye, big screen to small screen, fairy tales reflect the needs of the moment that (re)produced them.

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 412 Teaching and Learning II (A.C.T. Only)

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)

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 (TOYD Majors)

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.

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 (PD Majors)

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 Media and Society

Media and Society -Course description:

The developments of mass media and internet have significantly altered the way that people communicate visual information in a rapidly changing world.

We will address how mass media and digital culture shape our lives and how social spaces and communities are transformed in the digital age.

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.***