

Art History 2676F

Fall 2019

Introduction to Design

Mondays, 8:30-11:30

Middlesex College, rm. 105B

Professor John G. Hatch

Office: VAC 200C

Hours: Monday and Tuesdays, 13:30-14:30, or by appointment

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Teaching Assistants:

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Prerequisite: 1.0 from Art History 1640 or two of Art History 1641A/B-1648A/B, or the former VAH 1040 or two of the former VAH 1041A/B-1045A/B, or 1.0 essay course from Arts and Humanities, FIMS, or Social Science, or permission of the Department.

Course Description: This course introduces students to the theory, history, and practice of modern design from the end of the 19th century to the present day, as well as touching on its sociocultural impact. Using a wide range of historical and contemporary examples the course provides students with the basic principles of design, laying the foundation toward an understanding of what design involves in all of its myriad aspects, and how it affects our everyday lives.

Learning Outcomes:

The point of this course, beyond the obvious acquisition of knowledge of the topic we will be addressing over the term, is to have you engage in an open and active discussion of key historical and contemporary issues from the various perspectives offered by the authors we read, the course instructor, as well the thoughts of your peers on the topics addressed in class discussions. You should be able to critically engage with the readings and the designs encountered in this course, both verbally and in writing, and both in a summary form and more expansively. In some cases, some students may be encouraged to take a more inventive approach to looking at the problems and issues presented in this course.

By the end of this course you will have acquired an introductory understanding of the history, theory, and practice of design, as well as have gained a knowledge of some of the issues and expectations of contemporary designers in various fields of design.