

Things: Object, Image & Memory

Honors College Seminar V: Aesthetics, Values and Authority
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Honors College/Art + Art History - College of Communication, Architecture and the Arts

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IDH 3034-U04 (79914) Honors Seminar V

Mondays/Wednesdays 2-3:15 Graham Center 275A or field trip

Fall August 20 -December 1, 2018

Course Description

We are surrounded by things.

We collect and save, store and arrange them. From family heirlooms, museum and state or religious institution collections, and debris, refuse and remains, our history and memory are directed by image and object. Whether or not an object or image has survived time can affect our collective memory and play a pivotal role in forming society's aesthetics and values as well as demonstrating authority. Inspired by *A History of the World in 100 Objects* by Neil MacGregor, we will consider what objects, and the stories they generate, define who we are. Projects will include making an artifact for an event that has none and finding objects that generate stories in and about our own lives. The Wolfsonian and other local collections will enrich our exploration. Students will have the option to journey during Spring Break to the museums of Washington D.C. to allow us to discover those things contained within The Smithsonian, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the new National Museum of African American History and Culture. We communicate through objects and images. We make connections. We think with things. Whenever possible we will abandon the traditional classroom.

Course Objectives

1. To participate in experimental creative projects that reflect historical object forms.
2. To examine the role objects and imagery have played in forming our attitudes and knowledge and to consider how our attitudes and beliefs have influenced the aesthetics of the objects and imagery we keep and value historically and in popular culture.
3. To investigate the aesthetic language in the objects and images in art, science, philosophy, literature, religion, in politics and in culture.
4. To practice play, creative activities and experimentation in knowledge gain, synthesis, innovation and dissemination.

Learning Outcomes

1. To have a better understanding of art and innovative practices with gaining practical skills in researching objects.
2. To learn to recognize what we are looking at when thinking about the role things and the making of things have played in forming our attitudes and knowledge.
3. To be able to form narratives through objects.
4. To broaden the skills and possible strategies applicable to cognitive exercises.

FALL Grading

10 points - STORYTELLING THROUGH OBJECTS

35 points – BOOK PRESENTATIONS (each student assigned 2 chapters)

35 points - ARTIFACTS FOR EVENTS THAT HAVE NONE

15 points – THINGS JOURNAL with stories, comments and photos or drawings. Paragraph, poem or other for each of the following: movies, field trips, guest speakers, etc. Clearly labeled and dated.

5 points –Field Trip attendance

-5 points - Per class: Absence, Tardiness more than 15 minutes, Use of phone or pad or laptop for social communication or any other than class business (no exceptions), Unprepared for class, Non-participation.

*Most tasks will be assessed as: Done well: full points (or) Done: half points (or) Not done: zero points.

The experimental nature of this class must allow for valiant effort with unexpected outcomes. Just do it.

Final Grade points

100.0 – 93.00: A ⁺⁺ _{SEP}	86.00 – 83.00: B ⁺⁺ _{SEP}	76.00 – 73.00: C	66.00 – 63.00: D
92.00 – 90.00: A ⁺ _{SEP}	82.00 – 80.00: B ⁺ _{SEP}	72.00 – 70.00: C ⁺ _{SEP}	62.00 – 60.00: D ⁺ _{SEP}
89.00 – 87.00: B ⁺ _{SEP}	79.00 – 77.00: C ⁺ _{SEP}	69.00 – 67.00: D+	59.00 – 00.00: F

Extra credit will never be offered contractually. But extra credit will be given to students whose projects or performance warrants special consideration. Do not ask for extra credit. Extra credit cannot not be an anticipated substitute for assigned tasks.

Fall Required Supplies:

1. Moleskine notebook. (Pens, pencils, other)
2. Supplies for creative projects as will be discussed in class. Research required.
3. Possible travel expenses and entry fees to various art/museum venues.

Fall Required Reading

Daston, Lorraine J., *Things That Talk: Object Lessons from Art and Science*. Zone Books, 2007. Print.

Excerpts of other texts and articles may be provided.

There may be changes and additions to this list.

Books and supplies will be discussed the first day of class.

Attendance: Attendance without preparation and participation will be treated as an absence. Tardiness will be treated as an absence. Awake, alert and participating defines attendance – this is not simply signing a sheet or having your body present.

Class attendance is an important component of your grade. You will be excused one absence or one instance of tardiness with no penalty as long as all work is made up by the next class time. Note: this is one absence OR one lateness, not one of each. Any additional absence will incur a 5-point penalty per occurrence.

Although the one unexcused absence will not affect your class participation grade, there will be no make-ups for missed work. Make sure you have contact information of at least one other student to find out what you have missed. It is not the job of the professor to repeat lessons or announcements to students who missed class time. Students are responsible to read all emails sent by the professor and it will be assumed that the student is aware of all material and calendar changes and other information communicated through email.

Aug 20	Intro and assignments	Aug 22	STORYTELLING THROUGH OBJECTS
Aug 27	Discussion Spring Fieldtrip	Aug 29	<i>A History of the World in 100 Objects</i>
Sept 3	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	Sept 5	<i>A History of the World in 100 Objects</i>
Sept 10	Film: The Origami Revolution	Sept 12	Field Trip
Sept 17	1 Book Presentation: Bosch's Equipment	Sept 19	2 Book Presentation: Freestanding Column
Sept 24	3 Book Presentation: Staging an Empire	Sept 26	4 Book Presentation: A Science Whose Business is Bursting
Oct 1	5 Book Presentation: Res Ipsa Loquiter	Oct 3	6 Book Presentation: The Glass Flowers
Oct 8	7 Book Presentation: Image of Self	Oct 10	8 Book Presentation: News, Paper, Scissors
Oct 15	9 Book Presentation: Talking Pictures	Oct 17	TBA
Oct 22	Discussion (artifact assignment)	Oct 24	Field Trip
Oct 29	Film: Cast Away (Full class time)	Oct 31	Film: Cast Away (Full class time)
Nov 5	TBA	Nov 7	TBA
Nov 12	NO CLASS (Veterans Day)	Nov 14	Guest Lecturer TBA
Nov 19	Discussion (current events)	Nov 21	NO FORMAL CLASS (Independent Study)
Nov 26	ARTIFACTS FOR EVENTS THAT HAVE NONE	Nov 28	ARTIFACTS FOR EVENTS THAT HAVE NONE
Dec 3	FINALS WEEK	Dec 5	FINALS WEEK

THIS CALENDAR IS DESIGNED TO GIVE AN IDEA OF THE COURSE THOUGH THE ORDER OF EVENTS MAY CHANGE.

NOTES:

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), if you have not done so already.” Please note that if you have a student who is registered with the DRC, you will receive notification about the student’s disability and a detailed description of accommodations the student will require.

Religious Observances

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

Electronic Device Policy

Using your electronic devices to enhance our discussions or for note taking will be permitted. Any Facebook, e mail checking, shopping, texting, studying for other classes or any other unauthorized use within class time will result in a (-5) points for that day.

Honors College Requirements

Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity.

Honors Citizenship Requirements

Beginning in Fall 2014, Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 citizenship points each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate 10 citizenship points. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/citizenship/>.

Student Portfolios

The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students’ learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what “artifacts” or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/portfolio/>

Honors Education in the ARTS (HEARTS)

The HEARTS program is designed to give Honors College students opportunities to “explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions and modes of artistic expression. HEARTS will also serve as a clearinghouse (and curatorial framework) for our students to experience the arts on campus and in the community by providing them with information about cultural activities and access to performances with free or discounted tickets. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/hearts/>.

Honors College Academic Misconduct Statement

In The Honors College, the term “honor” refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

Procedures and Penalties

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Honors College website (<http://honors.fiu.edu/honors-policies/>), and the Academic Misconduct Procedures, available at <http://integrity.fiu.edu/misconducts.html>.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

FIU Code of Academic Integrity –<http://integrity.fiu.edu/> .

FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy – <http://honors.fiu.edu/honors-policies/> . Courses designated as Global Learning courses (IDH 3034-3035) must list specific Global Learning outcomes. Assignments must be able to assess the students’ ability to demonstrate these outcomes. Questions on Global Learning should be addressed to Jose Rodriguez, rodrije@fiu.edu.

Global Learning Outcomes

Upper Division classes have been designated as Global Learning courses. For questions regarding GL requirements, please contact Allen Varela at the Honors College.

GL Learning Outcomes for IDH 3034-5

- Global Awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.
- *Course Learning Outcome:* Students will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelated global dynamics (social-cultural, political, economic, etc.) that shape aesthetics, values, and authority in diverse cultural contexts.
- Global Perspectives: Students will be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.
- *Course Learning Outcome:* Students will be able to analyze the multiple global forces that shape their understanding of aesthetics, values, and authority — economic, political, sociological, technological, cultural, etc.
- Global Engagement: Students will be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.
- *Course Learning Outcome:* Students will be able to develop solutions to local, global, international, and/or intercultural problems related to aesthetics, values, and authority.