

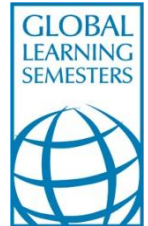
Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: DES-501 Design Theory and Criticism

Department: Design

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
DES-501	Design Theory and Criticism	3
Semester Offered	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Please contact us	42-45	Graduate Standing
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
Design	Upper Division	English

Course Description

This is an advanced course of design theory and criticism during the last part of the 20th century. The course emphasises the difference between theory and history as well as between theory and criticism. It is pointed out through selected writings that theory operates on different levels of abstraction, evaluating the design profession, its intentions and its cultural relevance at large. Recurring design themes throughout history that demand conceptual resolution are identified. Conceptual or intellectual questions are problematized in the manner of philosophy. Such theoretical questions include the origins and limits of design, the relationship of design to history, issues of cultural expression and meaning, contemporary communication channels. The themes and theoretical paradigms chosen are recurrent subjects of writings during the period understudy.

Prerequisites

Graduate Standing

Topic Areas

- Theory
 - Prescriptive
 - Proscriptive
 - Affirmative
 - Critical
- Theory and Criticism: Definitions
- Functionalism
- Form/function – Form/meaning
- Postmodernism
- Semiotics
- Deconstruction
- Historicism
- Typology and transformation
- Phenomenology
- The new narrative spaces/storytelling

Readings and Resources

Recommended Reading

Readings will include writings by key philosophers and cultural theorists of the 20th century such as Adorno, Benjamin, Bachelard, Barthes, Eco, Baudrillard, Derrida and Foucault.

- Woodham, J (1997) *Twentieth-Century Design*; Oxford University Press UK.
- Baker, K (1988) *Minimalism: art of circumstance*; Abeville Press UK.
- Crouch, C (1999) *Modernism in art, design and architecture*; Macmillan UK.
- Margolin, V. (2000) *Design discourse: history, theory, criticism*; The University of Chicago Press.