

GRST 411/ ARHA 411

100 Years Bauhaus: Discover and Experience the Making of Modern 0.25 credits

The Bauhaus was an art school founded in 1919 in the city of Weimar, Germany by German architect Walter Gropius. Its core objective was a radical concept: to reimagine the material world of war-torn Europe to reflect the unity of all the arts and of all world cultures. In the fifteen years of its existence the Bauhaus would undergo many changes, including moves from Weimar to Dessau and from Dessau to Berlin, as well as a reorientation away from craft and towards industrial production. Nevertheless, its core principles persisted: a coordination of fine with applied arts and of form with function; a commitment to de-hierarchized, experimental learning in the form of workshops; and the desire to disseminate advanced aesthetics among a broad population. Attracting men and women from Europe, the Americas, and East Asia, the Bauhaus adopted an international and gender-inclusive orientation from the beginning. After the school's forced closure in 1933 by the National Socialists, many of its teachers and students left Germany to found art schools throughout the globe, and its core principles continue to shape art pedagogy and practice today.

Funded by a grant from the German Embassy, this seminar brings together a number of speakers from Wesleyan and neighboring institutions to reflect on the Bauhaus's contributions to a diversity of artistic media, including architecture, the applied arts, cinema, and prints. Students are required to attend ALL seven events, including an introduction and final meeting. There are no costs to the students.

The events are as follows:

- (1) **Friday, September 13, 1:20-2:10PM, Bogar Hall 113:** Introduction meeting with Profs. Katherine Kuenzli and Iris Bork-Goldfield;
- (2) **Thursday, September 19, 12PM-1PM, FISK 208:** Prof. Joseph Siry: "Dessau, Then and Now: The Bauhaus and Contemporary Green Building";
- (3) **Wednesday, October 16, 4:30PM-5:45PM, Bogar Hall 112:** Brenda Danilowitz (Chief Curator, Josef and Anni Albers Foundation): "Bauhaus the Cradle of Modernism: Myth or Reality?";
- (4) **Friday, October 25, 12:45PM-4:30PM:** Excursion to the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in Bethany, CT: Tour of the gallery and hands-on activities;
- (5) **Tuesday, October 29, 4:30PM-5:45PM, Bogar Hall 112:** Prof. Joel Westerdale (Smith College): "The Film of Tomorrow! Walther Ruttmann and the Bauhaus";
- (6) **Friday, November 1, 2:30-3:30PM, DAC:** Special viewing of DAC artworks by Bauhaus-affiliated artists presented by Curator Miya Tokumitsu and Katherine Kuenzli;
- (7) **Friday, November 8, 1:20-2:10PM Bogar Hall 113:** Final meeting with Profs. Katherine Kuenzli and Iris Bork-Goldfield. Students will present a 10-minute-presentations on a Bauhaus topic of their choice.

Instructors: Iris Bork-Goldfield, Katherine Kuenzli

Student contributions include attendance, discussion, and a final oral presentation on one artwork or dimension of the Bauhaus.