Fall 2018

INT 350-101: History of Furniture

Gretchen Von Koenig

History of Furniture

INT 350 College of Architecture and Design (CoAD)
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Credits: 3
Class: Fall 2018 - Tuesdays 6-9pm,
Location: CKB 316
Instructor: Gretchen Von Koenig, Adjunct Professor
Office Hours: By appointment only
Contact: gretchen.a. vonkoenig@njit.edu

Overview:

Survey course studying the history and characteristics of furniture design from 1850 to the present day, primarily focused in Western cultures. Study of social and design forces influencing furniture. Students will analyze furniture in terms of style, aesthetic intent, construction and materials, ergonomics, universal/barrier-free accessibility, sustainability, and technology. Major stylistic movements will be discussed.

Class will be conducted on a lecture-discussion format. In- class team projects and exercises as well as home research assignments will be included.

Prerequisite: AD 161 and AD 162 or equivalent; or Arch 251, 252 and 381.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Clear understanding of the development of furniture styles and their relationship to the culture and society of the time.
- Awareness of the importance of studying original furniture in order to develop an understanding of the differences between the original and the reproduction; to begin to establish the professionalism of the designer.
- Proficiency in communication skills: experience in presentation techniques and working as a member of a team.
- Familiarization with resources for information in the metropolitan area, including furniture manufacturing, technology, museums, auction houses.

Readings:

There is no central, required textbook from this course, however many readings will be pulled from two major sources:

1. Gorman, Carma. The Industrial Design Reader. New York: Allworth Press, 2004. Print.
2. Kirkham, Pat, and Susan Weber. *History of Design: Decorative Arts and Material Culture, 1400-2000*. New Haven, CT: Yale U Press, 2013. Print.

In addition to these readings, I will be posting a variety of readings pulled from websites, auction catalogs, design magazines, museum materials, etc. and readings will be discussed in class. Laptops with Internet capability and a flash drive should be brought to each class.

Grading:

The grading breakdown is as follows:
1. Participation & Attendance (25%)
   - **Attendance is 10%**
   - **Participation 15%**
     - **7.5%** Discussions on readings
     - **7.5%** Posted Sketches after Class
       1. FORMAT: Lastname_Week#.jpg (png or whatever)
2. Assignments (75 %)
   - Assignment 1: Favorite Furniture (5 pts)
   - Assignment 2: Tracing Furniture & Image Archive (15)
   - Assignment 3: Design Charette #1 (30 pts)
     - Compare & Contrast Models w/short Paper
   - Assignment 4: Design Charette #2 (30 pts)
     - Picking a "client" and designing for them
   - Assignment 5: Research Papers w/ Diagrammed Design (20 pts)

In order for assignments to be graded, they must be uploaded to the shared google drive folder. I have shared this with you and you all will need to become familiar with it.

Syllabus:

Date	Topics In Class	Assignment Due (posted in the day it's due)
9/4 Week 1	1. Introduction / Syllabus Review 2. Issues & Methods 3. Exercise: Assignment 1 Favorite Furniture (emailed) 4. Assignment 2: Tracing Furniture & Image Archive (15)	**Assignment 1: Favorite Furniture**
9/11 Week 2	*Pre-1850 Influences from East & West*	**Assignment 2: Tracing Furniture & Image Archive (15)**

9/18
Week 3
	1850-1890 Design Reform
	Handout: Assignment 3: Design Charette #1
		Ruskin - The Nature of Gothic
		Dresser- Principles of Decorative Design
		    Suggested:
		    Jones - Grammar of Ornament
		    Morris - The Lesser Arts

9/25
Week 4
	Art Nouveau	Calvera - The Influence of English Design Reform in Catalonia
		    Suggested:
		    Chakraborty - Gesamtkunstwerk & Gender

10/2
Week 5
	Art for Manufacture / Werkbund	Loos- Ornament & Crime
		Muthesius & Van de Velde - Statements from the Werkbund Conference of 1914
		    Suggested:
		    Muthesius - Aims of the Werkbund

10/9 Week 6	*Class Presentations*	**Assignment 3: Design Charette #1**

10/16
Week 7
	American Efficiency / Art Moderne
	Handout: Assignment 4: Design Charette #2
		Frederick - The Labor Saving Kitchen
		Wright - Art & Craft of the Machine
		    Suggested:
		    Ford - Machinery: The New Messiah

10/23
Week 8
	American Art Deco / Streamline Moderne / Modernism Intro.	Watch: Sky Captain & The World of Tomorrow
		    Suggested:
		    Watch: Metropolis
		    Watch: Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them

10/30 Week 9	*Modernism / Functionalism / Mid-Century Modernism*	Gropius - The Program of the Staatliche Bauhaus in Weimar Barr & Johnson - Machine Art Noyes - Organic Design in Home Furnishings

11/6
Week 10
	Postwar / Postmodernism Intro
	Handout: Assignment 5: Sustainability Project
		Watch: 2001 Space Odyssey
		Radice - Memphis & Fashion
		    Suggested:
		    Pavitt - Bomb in The Brain

11/13 Week 11	*Class Presentations*	**Assignment 4: Design Charette #2**
11/20	*NO CLASS - THURSDAY CLASSES MEET*	
11/27 Week 13	*Topics in Contemporary Design / Gallery Visit*	READING TBD
12/4 Week 14	*Contemporary Design* *R & Co Visit / Gallery Visit*	READING TBD from selection of R&Co Materials
12/11 Week 15	*Final Papers/Report*	Final Papers Due

Grading Criteria:

Assignments: As per the policies of the School of Architecture and Design, all assignments must be uploaded to Kepler by the deadline. Any work not uploaded to Kepler will receive a failing grade. Any work that is not uploaded to Kepler will not be counted toward the final grade for the semester (meaning: it will be included as a zero in the final grade calculation).

Participation and Attendance: Class participation is required and expected. A student who fails to fulfill the participation requirement on more than two occasions during the semester will receive a grade reduction of one-half letter grade for each additional class where there is no participation. For example, if a student completes assignments and earns an average of 86 (B) on all work for the course but does not participate in three classes during the semester, the final grade will be a 76 (C). For excused absences (medical, psychological, etc), legitimate documentation must be provided by the student to the instructor and appropriate University staff at the onset of any issues that may impact their class performance. The University is under no obligation to offer special dispensation to students who present documentation after the end of the semester.

Format:

This class will be in a seminar format. Students will be expected to share their knowledge and opinions of lectures, required readings and related materials. This is a course based primarily on class discussion therefore class attendance is required. To facilitate discussion each student should bring three discussion questions to class each session. The questions can be points of interest you feel need to be highlighted or better explained, or just something you found interesting. The questions do not need to be lengthy, they just need to show that you have read the assigned material and thought about the topic in a critical manner. Randomly, I will ask students to share their question(s) with the class and collect the questions.

Policies:

Disabilities: Students with any form of disability should inform me during the first week of class so that I may make reasonable accommodations where necessary. You are also required to visit the Counseling Center to certify the need for these accommodations and provide the requisite documentation. The appointment should be made within the first week of classes.

Syllabus: This syllabus serves as a general outline. I reserve the right to deviate from any part of the plan as necessary. Students will be notified of any such modifications.

Late Assignments: Late assignments may be turned in up to a week late for half credit. After one week, there will be no credit awarded.

Grade Disputes for Assignments: If a student has a grade dispute, they should submit a one-page memo to the instructor presenting evidence for their case. The instructor will review and re- grade the original assignment. This review can create a grade increase, but may also create a grade decrease based on the new overall evaluation.

Course Grade Appeals: Grading is done at the sole discretion of each faculty member. A student who wishes to appeal a grade must write a formal letter to the Dean of the College of Architecture and Design specifying the course number, term, year and faculty member, AND reasons for the appeal. The Dean then refers the matter to the Associate Dean for Academcis who in turn appoints an ad hoc committee to review the student's work and the manner of grading. Full details of the appeals procedure and required documentation can be obtained from the academic advisor Sasha Corchado.

Violations of Academic Integrity : Any involvement with cheating, the fabrication or invention of

information used in an academic exercise, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty, or denying others access to information or material may result in disciplinary action being taken at either the college or university level. Breaches of academic integrity can result in serious consequences ranging from reprimand to expulsion. At a minimum, a work that involves a violation of academic integrity will receive an automatic grade of zero.