

## THE ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

AMST 01250g  
Tues Thurs 10:30 – 11:50  
Sayles Hall 306  
Fall Semester 2016  
Robert P. Emlen

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

"The Arts & Crafts Movement in America" is one of a series of courses in which students engage material culture as primary documents for the study of American cultural history. This course examines the architecture and household furnishings advocated, made and used in America from 1880 - 1920 by social reformers and artisans who thought that the daily life of ordinary folk could be improved by exposing them to good design and by providing them with good, affordable art.

Students in this course will be exposed to authentic artifacts of the Arts & Crafts movement, including architecture, furniture, metalware, ceramics, wallpaper, letterpress printing, and textiles in the collections of the John Hay Library, the RISD Museum, and the Providence Art Club. They will integrate this experiential learning with critical readings by the leading proselytes of the Arts & Crafts movement. Specifically, students will:

- ☐ learn to identify and describe authentic objects from the Arts & Crafts movement
- ☐ learn to analyze and evaluate the artifactual evidence of this reform movement
- ☐ learn to extrapolate from the advocacy by theoreticians and the experience of practitioners to visualize the successes and failures of this social and design reform.

In the first part of the class we will study the roots of the Arts & Crafts Movement in Victorian Britain. The second part of the course explores the flowering of these ideals in the United States, and examines how an English movement for social and design reform became an American style. The third part of the course focuses on how the ideals of the Arts & Crafts Movement flourished in Providence, and includes visits to the Providence Art Club and the Fleur de Lys Studios.

### READING

The required readings for this course can be found on the course web site on Canvas. Hard copies of these readings are on reserve at the Rockefeller Library.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for this course include daily reading assignments, estimated to take no more than one hour each in preparation; two short written papers of 1,000 – 1,500 words, attendance in class and on field trips, in-class participation, a midterm exam and a final paper of 3,500 – 4,500 words based on original research.

Please use your electronics only for class work when class is in session.

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 2:30  
Norwood House Room 305, 82 Waterman Street  
Other times by appointment: 863.3656 or [robert.emlen@Brown.edu](mailto:robert.emlen@Brown.edu)

Brown University is committed to full inclusion of all students. Please inform me early in the term if you have a disability or other conditions that might require accommodations or modification of any of these course procedures. You may speak with me after class or during office hours. For more information, please contact [Student and Employee Accessibility Services](#) at 401-863-9588 or [SEAS@brown.edu](mailto:SEAS@brown.edu).

**FALL 2016                      THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT IN AMERICA**

- September 8                      Introduction to the course
- September 13                      Fine Arts, Decorative Arts, and the Arts & Crafts Movement  
assignment: Jed Perl, "Utopian Designs" *The New Republic* April 11, 2005  
Roberta Smith, "Decorative Arts ...Became a Social Movement" *NYT* 7/25/2005
- September 15                      The Arts & Crafts Movement in Europe and America  
assign: Kaplan, "Design for the Modern World," Crawford, "United Kingdom: Origins and First Flowerings" in *The Arts & Crafts Movement in Europe and America*
- September 20                      The Beauty of Life: William Morris and the Art of Design  
assign: Waggoner, "Introduction" & Kirkham, "William Morris: A Life in Design" in Waggoner, *The Beauty of Life: William Morris and the Art of Design*
- September 22                      The Beauty of Life: William Morris and the Art of Design  
assign: Waggoner, "The Decoration of Houses" and "The Art of the Book" in Waggoner, *The Beauty of Life: William Morris and the Art of Design*  
**Class meets at the RISD Museum**
- September 27                      The Beauty of Life: William Morris and the Art of Design  
assignment: Bosley, "Two Sides of the River: Morris and American Arts & Crafts" in Waggoner, *The Beauty of Life: William Morris and the Art of Design*
- September 29                      The Arts & Crafts Movement in Europe and America  
assign: Kaplan, "America: The Quest for Democratic Design" in Kaplan, *The Arts & Crafts Movement in Europe and America* **Class meets at the John Hay Library**
- October 4                              Bringing the Arts & Crafts Movement to the United States  
assign Rudd, "Elbert Hubbard, Gustav Stickley, and the Redefinition of American Arts and Crafts" in Barter, *Apostles of Beauty: Arts & Crafts from Britain to Chicago*
- October 6                              Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement  
assignment: Tucker, "Introduction," Cathers, "The Moment," and Tucker, "Art from Industry" in Tucker, *Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement* **Arts & Crafts printing paper due**
- October 11                              Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement  
assignment: Cunningham, "Irene Sargent," Brandt, "Paradox of the Craftsman Home," and McPherson, "Gustav Stickley at Home" in Tucker, *Gustav Stickley*

- October 13 Gustav Stickley, *The Craftsman*, and the American Arts & Crafts Movement  
assignment: "A Visit to the House of Mr. Stickley" in *The Craftsman* December 1902,  
"The Craftsman House" and "An Interior" in *The Craftsman* June 1903
- October 18 Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters  
assign: Quinan, "Elbert Hubbard's Roycroft," Vilain, "The Roycroft Press Books," and  
Brandt, The Work of the Roycroft Furniture Shop," in *Head, Heart and Hand*
- October 20 Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters  
assign: Rust, "Alchemy," Hamilton, "Modeled Leather, and Austin, "Consumer  
Culture," in Via, *Heart, Head and Hand*, and *A Catalog of the Roycrofters*
- October 25 Midterm exam

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- October 27 American Art Pottery and Social Reform  
assign: Gadsen, *Art and Reform: Sara Galner, The Saturday Evening Girls, and Pottery*
- November 1 Byrdcliffe: An American Arts & Crafts Colony  
assignment: Green, "Introduction, " Wolf, Byrdcliffe's History" and Green, "The  
Reality of Beauty" in Green, ed, *Byrdcliffe: An American Arts & Crafts Colony*, 2004
- November 3 Byrdcliffe: An American Arts & Crafts Colony  
assignment: Edwards, "Byrdcliffe Furniture" and Denker, "Purely for Pleasure:  
Ceramics at Byrdcliffe" in Green, ed, *Byrdcliffe: An American Arts & Crafts Colony*
- November 8 The Arts & Crafts Movement in Providence  
assignment: Kaufmann, "Some American Architectural Ornament of the Arts &  
Crafts Era," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians XXIV, 4 (Dec. 1965) and  
Beade, "New England Brotherhood: Sydney Burleigh, the Fleur de Lys, and the Art  
Workers Guild" in *Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies* Spring 1993
- November 10 Making and Marketing the Arts & Crafts in America  
assignment: Michie, "Introduction" in *Centennial Arts & Crafts Exhibition:  
Providence* 2001; Sargent, "A Recent Arts & Crafts Exhibition" in *The Craftsman* May,  
1903;  
**Class meets at the Providence Art Club, 11 Thomas Street**
- November 15 The Arts & Crafts Movement in California  
assignment: Lovell, "The Forest, the Copper Mine, and the Sea: The Alchemical and  
Social Materiality of Greene and Greene," in *A New and Native Beauty: The Art and  
Craft of Greene & Green*, 2008

- November 17      The Arts & Crafts Movement in California  
assignment: Cooke, "An International Studio: The Furniture Collaborations of the Greenes and the Halls" in *A New and Native Beauty*  
**Art Club paper due**
- November 22      The Arts & Crafts Movement in the American Southwest  
assignment: Taylor, "Arts and Crafts in the Santa Fe Style," in Denker, ed., *The Substance of Style: Perspectives on the American Arts & Crafts Movement*, 1996
- November 29      Arts & Crafts Silver in America  
assignment: Falino and Reynolds, "Design Reform in Metalwork: The Aesthetic Style" in Falino and Ward, eds., *Silver of the Americas, 1600-2000: American Silver in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*, 2008
- December 1        Arts & Crafts Silver in America  
Reynolds and Falino, "Arts and Crafts Silver" in Falino and Ward, eds., *Silver of the Americas, 1600-2000: American Silver in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*, 2008  
**Class meets at John Nicholas Brown Ctr 357 Benefit St between Power/Williams**
- December 6        Arts & Crafts Metalwork and a British Critic in America  
assignment: Braznell, "The Influence of C. R. Ashbee and His Guild of Handicraft on American Silver, Other Metalwork, and Jewelry" in Denker, ed., *The Substance of Style: Perspectives on the American Arts Movement*, 1996
- December 8        Final reports