

Design One Project Four/Part One
Introduced October 5. Due November 9.
Topic Outlines Due October 21

20th Century Design History/Critique

A subject of great importance to all design and art education is the German design school named the Staatliches Bauhaus. Commonly referred to as the Bauhaus, this school existed for a short period (1919-1933) yet its influence is still felt today. This school was an experiment in the education of designers. With the curriculum, students worked to abstract form, symbols, shape, type and images and develop a better understanding of the nature of an emerging design field. There was also a great emphasis on the use of industrial materials and processes, comprehensive design programs and an interrelationship of form and style between disciplines.

You will write a brief paper about a subject from this school. This paper is not to be a survey. Instead, write about a specific object or construction and analyze the work, describing its content, meaning and, especially, its importance to the history of design. You are not restricted from writing about non-graphic work but you must draw a direct connection between your subject and the field of design. For example, Walter Gropius designed the Dessau Bauhaus buildings on a strict grid with the intent that it would organize the entire curriculum at the school. The structure and simplicity at the core of the building can be related to typography and graphic design of the time. Background information that is provided should be brief. The emphasis in your paper is in the critique of the work. We will watch a video that will provide you with a good historical foundation for this subject.

This paper will be a significant aspect of your final project. Consider your work with the subject as a graphic design project. Look for images and other information that will help you with this aspect of the assignment.

Process

1. Write a paper/critique of 1200 words about a historical topic.
 - Initially research several different subjects that interest you and narrow your paper down to one.
 - Subject may be type, a poster, architecture, furniture, designer, teacher, etc.
 - Papers may compare a series of similar objects to demonstrate your thesis.
 - Explore topics from Bauhaus timeline (1919–1933) only. Papers cannot discuss work produced outside of this time range.
 - Critique at least one object, example related to your subject. This critique will be a main focus in your paper.
2. Research/Project Development
 - In class video/lectures will provide an overview of the subject. Additional reading and research will help you to find the topic you wish to pursue.
 - Determine the topic quickly. There are limited resources at local libraries. You may borrow additional materials on inter-library loan and universal borrowing(UB) but you will need to plan ahead to ensure that books will be available during the project period.
 - You will need to commit to your topic on October 21 or I will assign one to you.** Provide a typed paragraph that outlines your topic and significant examples that you may critique. Also provide an initial bibliography with at least three non-internet sources.

Final Presentation.

- Final papers provide insight into a specific topic. Do not cover subjects and information outside of the geographic and chronological categories mentioned above.
- Papers are to be no less than 1200 words.
- All quotations and reading references must be cited using the MLA standards. You must include a full bibliography. Websites must also be documented. A good citation generator: <http://citationmachine.net/>
Additional information on citation: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocMLA.html>
- Submit a typed, double-spaced manuscript with title page for the deadline. I will read papers and return them with suggestions and corrections. You will have the opportunity to revise your papers for the final book project. Include a photocopy of the work that you will critique with your paper.

- With the focus on European design, be sure to include correct language accents and punctuation! Consult your type catalogue for keyboard commands.
- Spelling mistakes, unfinished papers and careless presentation will affect the grade you receive for your final book project.

Project Four/Part One **Schedule**

- Oct 5 Project Four/Part One Introduced. Bauhaus Video.
- Oct 7 Design History Continued.
Homework: Look up at least three topics from the period. Consult Philip Meggs, *A History of Graphic Design*, the *Grove Dictionary of Art*. Available in the reference area of Polk Library. You may also consult the internet but be wary of the accuracy of web-based information!
- Oct 14 **Due Today:** Sign Up for a Topic.
Homework: Create an outline for your design history research.
- Oct 21 **Due Today:** Project Four/Part One Outlines. Submit a typed sheet outlining your topic, bibliography, a specific visual example, and your reason for choosing the topic.
- Nov 9 **Due Today:** Project Four/Part One. Paper must be formatted with a title page, double spaced, 12pt type. All borrowed quotations and ideas must be cited (MLA standards only), a bibliography and b+w copy of the work you critiqued must also be attached.

Suggested Topics:

Bauhaus teachers and artists

Anni Albers (1899–1994)
 Alfred Arndt (1898–1976)
 Marianne Brandt (1893–1983)
 Hannes Meyer (1889–1954)
 Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886–1969)
 Lilly Reich (1885–1947)
 Georg Muche (1895–1987)
 Oskar Schlemmer (1888–1943)
 Joost Schmidt (1893–1948)
 Gunta Stölzl (1897–1983)
 Walter Gropius (1883-1969)
 Joost Schmidt (1893-1948)
 Laslo Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946)
 Herbert Bayer (1900-85)
 Marcel Breuer (1902-81)

related topics

Jan Tschichold (1902-74)
 Paul Renner (1878–1956)
 deStijl
 Théo van Doesberg (1883-1964)
 Bart van der Leek (1876-1958)
 Gerrit Rietveld (1888-1964)

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