

Art

The Art of the Illuminated Manuscript ~ Daniel Johnson

LD only (Lower Division 100-200)/3 credit hours

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the artwork of illuminated manuscripts and their influence upon contemporary book design. The learning goals are two-fold in that it will primarily focus on exemplary works of illumination and secondarily expose participants to various literary influences. Book arts often trace their origins to illuminated manuscripts and this study will show the essential relationships between book design and the form of the written word. Students will need to keep a sketchbook type of journal for note taking that will include image creation, color notation, ephemera collection, and verbal journaling. Participants will also be required to keep a companion photography journal. Grades will be based on both finished journals and works of illumination using the journals as sourcing material. Students will explore history and mythology and experiment with portraying their experiences in text and image. Goals include: ? Objective: Introduce students to book arts. Sites: Chester Beatty Library Dublin, Abbey Theatre Dublin. Thoor Ballylee County Galway. Requirements: Lecture notes, visual/verbal journaling. ? Objective: Evaluate Illuminated Manuscripts. Sites: Trinity College Dublin (the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow). Chester Beatty Library Dublin (Eastern and Western examples of illumination). Requirements: Lecture notes, visual/verbal journaling. Reference source/text: A History of Illuminated Manuscripts by Christopher De Hamel, Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms by Michelle Brown. ? Objective: Experiment with the relationship between image and text as well as the ability to communicate emotionally and intellectually. Requirements: Reflection upon and application of ?on-location? studies. Production and craft of a finished product. Sites: Classroom (we will NOT need a specified classroom space as un-crowded mid-day pubs, open air parks, or public areas will be sufficient). Requirement: Class will meet to learn the creation of Celtic knot-work, page layout, entry-level calligraphy and its relationship to typographic glyph forms. ? Objective: Expose students to various literary sources of Ireland such as; WB Yeats, GB Shaw, Samuel Beckett, and James Joyce. Possible Sites: Abbey Theatre, Temple Bar, O?Connell St., St. Patrick?s Cathedral, Powerscourt Estate County Wicklow, Thoor Ballylee County Galway, Dublin literary site tours per author. ? Objectives: Introduce students to the myths and legends of Ireland including those championed by Irish folklorists Lady Gregory. Possible Sites: Hill of Tara, Thoor Ballylee, Howth. ? Objectives: A survey of Irish history and its importance to the myth cycle and relationship with contemporary art. Possible Sites: National Gallery of Ireland, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Battle of the Boyne, St. Patrick?s Cathedral, Hill of Tara, Monasterboice, Mellifont Abbey, Glendalough, Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystalworks, Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, Aran Islands (Dun Aengus). Course Prep Outline: Lectures: 1- Orientation lectures: - Visual/verbal journaling. - An overview of Irish history and relationship with myth cycle. 2- Site orientation lectures (complementary to docents and guides): - Trinity, Chester Beatty, Dublin Museum: illuminated manuscripts and book arts - Abbey Theater: Influential literature part 1 - Boyne Valley: Hill of Tara history and

mythology (discuss myth cycle), Celtic knot-work and the Celtic Cross (Tara or New Grange) - Thoor Balleylee: See b. above influential literature part 2 Demonstrations: 1- Celtic knotwork, when? In relation or close to Mellifont Abbey and Monasterboice. 2- Typography, lettering, and calligraphy. Page-layout canons. When? Any time ? but may be better after knot-work demo or close to Kell's viewing. 3- Finished product requirements. When? Close to leaving Ireland.

Can the course be taken to fulfill major and minor requirements? NO

Can the course be taken to fulfill general elective credits? YES

Are there prerequisites for this course?

NO

Assessment Methods:

10% Typography and Calligraphy exercise (beginning typography and handwritten type creation methods)

10% Page layout design and knotwork (foundations of page formatting and development of decorative knotwork)

25% Participation

25% Journal and Photo-journal (similar to attendance there will be an expectation of significant engagement for each day including travel days)

30% Final art project (this project will be a summary project that will be created after the trip and submitted with the journal for review and exhibition)