

HA2G5-15 Representing War: British Art, Design, Architecture and The First World War

26/27

Department

SCAPVC - History of Art

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Richenda Roberts

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module examines British art, design and architecture responding to the First World War (1914-18) and its immediate aftermath. Focussing on the work of artists and designers, such as Nevinson, Wyndham Lewis, Nash, Walker, Southall, Gill and Lutyens, the module explores the diversity of responses to the impact of modern industrialised "total" war and its effects upon society. Consequently it considers a variety of cultural forms, such as paintings, prints, sculptures, photography, monuments, literature, poetry, plays and film. Various modes of artistic expression will be examined, including naturalistic, symbolic and modernist responses, within the contexts of the collision between long-held cultural traditions and the modern socio-political circumstances of wartime and early twentieth century Britain. Consideration will also be given to the representation of war dead, rituals of remembrance, for example recourse in spiritualism and the occult, and memorials. Also, the reception of art, design and architecture produced in response to war, including patronage and exhibition cultures.

Module aims

The module aims to develop students' understanding of British art, architecture and design that engaged with the impact of the First World War, and to encourage an appreciation of its cultural and historical significance. In doing so the module will provide an understanding of how the work of artists, designers and architects addressed questions of witnessing and giving testimony of war within the frameworks of issues such as pro-war propaganda, changing social values, identity, censorship, bereavement, pacifism and protest. Students will engage in debates about the nature and impact of modern "total" warfare, its representation and reception in key examples of British art, design and architecture created and displayed during the period of study. This will allow scrutiny of how British art, design and architecture of during the First World War not only represented but helped to shape changing meanings and values of war and society. The scope of module will also enable students to explore and evaluate the legacy of British First World War art, design and architectural practices, which can be identified in many later examples of modern and contemporary cultural forms responding to war.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The Legacy of Cultural Tradition: the 'Reciprocal Metaphorization' of War and Sexual Difference.
Art, Design and War Propaganda at the Start of War.

British Avant-Garde Art and the War.

The Impact of War: 'Destabilizing the Traditional Tropic Gender Balance': weak men and strong women.

Art and Censorship.

Female Artists and Photographers.

Art and Pacifism.

Rituals of Mourning, Remembrance and Legacy.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understanding of developments in British art, design and architecture during the First World War.
- Show a nuanced understanding of impact of the First World War, British patronage and the consumption of art, design and architecture.
- Be able to make connections and describe the relationships between the creation and reception of art, design and architecture and the cultural and social environment of the period covered by the module.
- Present an argument, initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level
- Ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level
- Familiarity with essential ICT skills
- Ability to collaborate effectively with others
- Show understanding of diverse viewpoints

- Ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence
- Ability to formulate a sustained argument
- Think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level
- Sophisticated visual analysis
- Bibliographical skills at an appropriate level
- Critical analysis of cultural artefacts in their context

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

- understanding of developments in British art, design, architecture during the First World War.
- have how a nuanced comprehension of the impact of the First World War, British patronage and the consumption of art, design and architecture.
- be able to make connections and describe the relationships between the creation and reception of art, design and architecture and the cultural and social environment of the period covered by the module.
- Sophisticated visual and critical analysis of cultural artefacts in their context.

Transferable skills

- present an argument, initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level
- ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level
- familiarity with essential ICT skills
- ability to collaborate effectively with others
- show understanding of diverse viewpoints
- ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence
- ability to formulate a sustained argument
- think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level
- bibliographical skills at an appropriate level

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
External visits	1 session of 2 hours (1%)
Private study	128 hours (85%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Required and recommended reading for seminar presentations, research for written assessment and revision for examinations

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group C1

Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

Assessment component

Assessed essay	40%	No
2000 word essay		

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Engagement	10%	No
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Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Online Written Assignment (Open Book)	50%	No
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Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and dedicated feedback tutorials

[Past exam papers for HA2G5](#)

Availability

There is currently no information about the courses for which this module is core or optional.