TERM: Summer I 2024

COURSE TITLE: Los Angeles as Assemblage

COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 5000.01 Assemblage | CRN: 10048 (Undergrad Students)

 ENGL 5000.02 Assemblage | CRN; 10050 (M.A. Students)

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T/R 4:00-7:40

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Harris (English)

CORE AREA: Interdisciplinary Connections

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course examines Los Angeles Assemblage Art, literature, and film through the theoretical lens of assemblage. The specific meanings of assemblage as art practice, philosophical concept, and critical-urban theory will be compared as a means to make sense of the city’s cultural history. Like the sculptural constructions that first brought the city cultural attention, Los Angeles itself is similarly complex, diverse, and fractal. The diverse artists to be studied in the course Noah Purifoy, John Outterbridge, Betye Saar, and the Womanhouse/CalArts Feminist Art Program, to name a few. We will examine Watts through the work of Noah Purifoy and the Watts Rebellion, Simon Rodia’s Watts Towers of Los Angeles, and jazz musician Charles Mingus’s autobiography *Beneath the Underdog*. We will also study literature and theory of The Everyday with special attention to the writings and methods of George Perec.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will learn to analyze material in an interdisciplinary, synthetic method.
2. Students will learn the history of Assemblage in relation to Los Angeles’s cultural development.
3. Students will attain an understanding of LA Assemblage art in relation to critical theories and histories.
4. Students will understand how the visual arts and critical criticism are interrelated and influence one another.
5. Students will understand and practice site-specific writing as a genre.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Upper-division or graduate student (English) standing required.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Additional course readings will be assembled in a class reader.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Discussion posts; Class presentations; Essays; Site-specific writings; Research or creative project

**This course fulfills the following undergraduate English Major requirement:**

**Note: LD denotes a lower-division course and UD denotes an upper-division course.**

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| **OLD CURRICULUM** | **CHECK** | **NEW CURRICULUM** | **CHECK** |
| Genres (LD) |  | Disciplinary Research (LD) |  |
| Histories (LD) |  | History of Literature, Media, and Culture (LD) |  |
| Authors (UD) |  | Reading and Writing Genres (LD) |  |
| Critical/Theoretical (UD) | **X** | Theory, Power, and Rhetoric (LD) |  |
| Comparative (UD) |  | Pre-1800 (UD) |  |
| Creative/Artistry (UD) |  | Creative/Artistry (UD) |  |
|  |  | Race, Intersectionality, and Power (UD) |  |
|  |  | 5000-Level Seminar (UD) | **X** |

**This course counts as a Literature/Theory Elective in the M.A. Program.**