

HISTORY OF DESIGN I, 1760 - 1945



Prof. Robin Schuldenfrei
AH235 CRN 10143,10145(Honors)
Friday, 9:00-11:45 AM C1LC
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Beginning in 1760 and concluding in 1945, this course spans a period of revolution, economic upheaval, and great social change and movement. This lecture course traces multiple facets of the history of design from various historical, methodological, and theoretical perspectives in order to understand design as a cultural response to the changing conditions of modern societies. Covering a range of fields, including industrial design, graphic design, architecture, and interior architecture, this course will examine objects as indices for larger social, cultural and political issues. As this was a period of varied and sometimes heated national, artistic and stylistic debate, original texts by architects and theorists will be read to give insight into period thinking and concepts. The course will emphasize such themes as symbolism, rationalism, functionalism, technology, new typologies, and changing social conditions. Through the study of objects, theories, and styles alike, this course seeks to come to terms with the complex relationships, social agendas, and varying theories concerning the ways in which design in the past continues to inform the present.