

Course Outline KULIS 2019/20

Course title	Material culture in art, religion and technology
Date/duration	Tuesday 10-12
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Ilaria Hoppe
Teaching language	English
ECTS	3+2

Contents

The course introduces to material culture studies. This highly interdisciplinary field of research emerged after the material turn in many disciplines in the humanities. It focuses on the relationships between people and objects, their making, its history and interpretation, moreover how objects are valued and serve as tools of communication. As material culture was produced and used by all strata of society, it gives a much broader access to everyday life, art and religion. Furthermore, it allows exploring things not only from a subject-centered perspective, but also by looking at the inherent conditions of the material itself: How, for example, certain materials demand a specific treatment, offer a sensual and tactile approach, or machines develop a life of its own. After reading seminal texts in order to understand the methodology, we will look and discuss objects throughout the centuries, and visit famous collections as well.

Learning outcomes

The course gives an overview on the relevant positions of the material turn. It enhances therefore the interdisciplinary approach in art and religious history. Moreover, it gives an exemplary overview about the history of collections by focusing on prominent pieces from art, religion and technology.

Teaching and learning methods

The basis for the course is reading and discussing texts together. Furthermore the students are expected to apply the outcomes of this theoretical approach on specific objects by a short presentation (text and images) followed by a general discussion and evaluation.

Course preparation

No course preparation is needed.

Additional literature

Arjun Appadurai (Hg.), *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in a Cultural Perspective*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1986; Dan Hicks, *The Material-Cultural Turn: event and effect*: Dan Hicks/Mary C. Beaudry (Hg.), *The Oxford Handbook of Material Culture Studies*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2010; E. Frances King, *Material Religion and Popular Culture*, Routledge Abingdon 2014; S. Brent Plate, *A History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects. Bringing the Spiritual to its Senses*, Beacon Press Boston 2014; Diane Apostolos-Cappadona (Hg.), *Religion: Material Religion (Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks)*, Gale Farmington Hill 2016

Assessment (%)

(methods of examination, requirements for awarding credit points)

Presentation with handout; written paper or oral exam possible.

Contact details (lecturer)

Prof. Dr. Ilaria Hoppe
i.hoppe@ku-linz.at