Manifestos declare, publicly, a group or individual’s aims and goals. The manifestos published by 20th-century aesthetic movements often acknowledge, graphically, that words are also material, textual, and aesthetic objects, and their shape, font, and arrangement on the page can also contain (and produce) meaning.

Using, as a springboard, 20th-century manifestos, students will study the interactions between art, technologies of representation (like photography), text, type, font, and graphic design throughout the 20th -- and into the 21st -- century. As well as writing essays responding to texts and images, students will learn to conduct, evaluate, cite, and synthesize research, produce a research paper on a 20th-century aesthetic movement, and finally, write their own manifestos.

Textbooks (available at Shakespeare & Co.)

Readings indicated as “pdfs” on the syllabus will be available on the course website. You must always bring a copy with you to class. Please do not use phones as e-readers in the classroom.

Requirements:

1. Formal essays. You will be assigned 3 formal essays, including a research-based, longer essay (8-10 pages) and a Manifesto. (60% of grade)

2. Students will be responsible for posting responses to the reading on the course website. On each day that a reading is due, one student is to post a longer response, which students will be expected to discuss on the website prior to class. (20% of grade)

3. Participation includes group work, productive use of class time, and arriving prepared and on time every day, as well as actively participating in class discussion. Not having your text with you on a day in which it is needed will count against your participation grade (20% of grade).
Policies:

Come to class every time, on time, and with your reading done.

Essays will be turned in electronically, in the form of PDF documents, and must be formatted according to instructions.

You are responsible for all material covered during class – whether you are present or not. Please get contact information from at least one classmate, so that if you are absent they can fill you in on what you missed.

Excessive absences will not only affect your success in the course, but also your grade. I expect you to arrive promptly and prepared each day.

Be aware that your work will be looked at by others; ensure that your content is appropriate for the classroom environment. On workshop days, you must bring 3-4 copies of your essay with you to class; failure to do so will count against your final essay grade.

Plagiarism is grounds for failure. Please be familiar with the School’s plagiarism policy, found at https://cmsauthor.nyu.edu/cf#/gallatin/en/gateways/facultystaff/plagiarism.html

All essays must be double-spaced and typed in 12-pt Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins all around. This ensures the standardization of page limits.

Reading Schedule

Readings are due on the date listed; please note that assignment dates may change; it is your responsibility to keep up with any changes.

Items marked with an asterisk will be available on the course website.

T 1/24 Introduction to the Course
R 1/26 Culler, “Performative Language” * Essay 1 Assigned: Comparing Sources

T 1/31 Declaration of Independence, Lyon, “Manifestoes and the Public Sphere”*
R 2/2 Marx and Engels, “The Communist Manifesto”*

T 2/7 Essay 1 Workshop. Please come to class with three hard copies.
R 2/9 Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction.”*

T 2/14 No class Online assignment: Research questions, research plans

R 2/23 Library Outing
T 2/28 Marinetti, “The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism,” (Caws, 185) “Destruction of Syntax” (link), *Workshop Research Question*
R 3/1 Blast 1

T 3/6 How to write a proposal and annotated bibliography. *Come to class with a topic and two sources*
R 3/8 Andrade, “Anthropophagous Manifesto”* (pdf)

T 3/13 Spring Break!!!
R 3/15 Spring Break!!!

T 3/20 Guest speaker: Elizabeth Knafo, graphic designer (tentative). *Annotated Bibliography due.*
R 3/22 Screening: “Helvetica.”

T 3/27 Rough Draft due. *Peer workshop: please bring three hard copies to class.*
R 3/29 Concrete Poetry

T 4/3 Barthes, excerpt from *Image Music Text*

T 4/10 Visit to Fales library Riot Grrrl Archives
R 4/12 Riot Grrrl Manifesto

T 4/17
R 4/19 Manifesto workshop

T 4/24 Declaration of the Occupation of New York
R 4/26 Manifesto Presentations I

T 5/1 Manifesto Presentations II
R 5/3 Last Class