

ARTSSCI 4MN1 / Movement and Integration in Light of Disruption

Fall 2021

Module Instructor: TBA

Module Schedule (Zoom)

Wednesday 29 September - 6:00PM - 8:00PM - Disruption: Loss of Movement

Wednesday 27 October - 6:00PM - 8:00PM - Movement in a Pandemic

Wednesday 17 November - 6:00PM - 8:00PM - Travel and Exchange in a Virtual World

Wednesday 1 December - 6:00PM - 8:00PM - Post Pandemic Musings

Module Description

Nothing's lost forever. In the world, there is a kind of painful progress. Longing for what we've left behind, and dreaming ahead.

- Harper, *Angels in America*

Study abroad application approved. Passport renewed. Flights booked. Excitement level: High. And then....a pandemic strikes. This module of ARTSSCI 4MN1, an experiential learning course, is an adaptation of ARTSSCI 4MN2 / Movement and Integration, which brought together Arts & Science students and international exchange students to explore the experience of studying abroad. The module is open to students who had planned to go on exchange in 2020-21 and 2021-22, but had their plans disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This one-unit course prompts critical reflection on the experience of planning to study in unfamiliar terrain and the inability to participate on an exchange due to COVID-19. The course will provide a space to process and explore the disruption and reimagine how we study, travel, and move in spaces while socially distanced and locked down. Further we will explore concepts of movement and integration in a pandemic and post-pandemic world. Ultimately, the course aims to help students develop an ongoing practice of reflective, lifelong learning.

The course is evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis.

Course Outline

Session 1: Disruption - Loss of Movement

Module 1 will orient us and chart a route for our journey in the course. We will examine the motivations for participating in a study abroad program and reflect on the value of exchange. Students will have the opportunity to share their intended study abroad plans and reflect on the loss and inability to participate on exchange due to the pandemic.

Prior to the class students will be asked to write an "exchangeview" - a general statement of your view of exchange/movement. The piece will address the critical issues related to what exchange is and what it means to you. We will share them together in order to identify themes and devise a collective class exchangeview.

Session 2: Movement in a Pandemic

What does it mean to move in a space during a pandemic? In this module, we will reflect on the experience of our movement and movements over the past year and a half. What has movement looked like in a pandemic? How does this movement change how we engage with spaces and each other? What does it mean to move in physical spaces and online? What happens when we are unable to move to other spaces?

Prior to class, students will additionally participate in an audio-walk. Part audio play, part walking tour, you are the audience, but you are also the actor. The experience will prompt you to move through your own space and to stop at a series of locations linked to your memories and imagination.

Session 3: Travel and Exchange in a Virtual World

Returning to the question of what motivates one to learn/study/work abroad, we will explore what motivations can be translated to a virtual platform. What are the ways in which we can travel in a virtual world and what are the pieces that cannot be translated to an online format? Dr. Leah Carmichael writes "people go abroad to immerse themselves in a new culture" and "to understand what of their worldview 'sticks' without the old backdrop of home." We will explore how we can immerse ourselves in a new culture while stuck in our current one.

Students will have the opportunity to "travel" (virtually) to their intended exchange destination and share the experience of travelling from the comfort of home.

Session 4: Post Pandemic Musings

Our final module will provide us with a space to imagine and reimagine what our future will look like and how movement and exchange will forever be altered. We will return to our collective “exchangeview” and reflect on our understanding of travel and exchange at the end of the course. You are to complete a one-page (max.) reflection and bring it to our class to share on **December 1st**. Through design thinking exercises, we will journey map what our futures might look like and dream ahead.

Evaluation:

- Participation
- Exchangeview
- Final Reflective Paper