

GW 2850  
Final Project  
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*Curating the Avant-Garde : Media and Aesthetic Movements*



This semester we have thought through literature in terms of movements (The Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism) and while this is most definitely a way to ground ourselves chronologically and historically to the texts, there are really endless different ways to think about the way literature relates to us as a society and to us as individuals. If we think of literature as atmospheric rather than limited to a particular movement or period, it becomes more of a phenomenon that at any point can tell us a different story but also says something profound about what the “atmosphere” of any given time period could have been like.

Trying to think about literature in this more fluid way could open up all sorts of spaces. For your final project, I would like you to see these spaces in our contemporary atmosphere. What sort of age of literature are we in now? What kind of genres do we see? What themes? What do you feel seems to be emerging from our time? What will people remember and how will they attempt to classify what we are doing? (What is in the air)

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries print media, especially pamphlets and periodicals, were essential in spreading these atmospheric ideas and served as a creative platform that allowed for engagement from a much wider audience. For your final project, I would like you to consider what you feel is ‘in the air’ and create your own movement. In order to craft your movement, I would like you to use the following online databases to find a ‘movement’; periodical or poetic manifesto to imitate in style.

- [The Modernist Journals Project](#)
- [British Library of Congress](#)
- [Digital Collections: NYPL](#)

### Assignment Requirements:

You will create a website/blogspace using either [Omkea](#) or [Blogs@Baruch](#) that includes:

- 1) A name for your movement
- 2) A Manifesto: In order to help you write your manifesto you can use this helpful article: [Manifesto: A Manifesto](#). You can perform your manifesto and upload a video or audio clip of you reading or find an effective way to display the text.
- 3) A detailed description and analysis of the source you've chosen to imitate. Your description should include historical details about the movement and its members or the periodical you've chosen. The analysis should be like a close reading. Why did you choose this source? What aspects of this particular movement did you choose to imitate and why? Aesthetically, how does your movement present like this movement? You want to include a link to the journal or piece you've chosen from the above databases.
- 4) Three pages of your blogspace dedicated to presenting what your movement 'offers'. This can take a variety of forms. Suggestions below:
  - You can compile a collection of images, artworks, and/or clips that you would consider part of your movement. (All of these must be licensed for use through <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>)
  - You can produce your own poetry/artwork that would contribute to this movement.
  - You can respond to contemporary articles, events, or phenomena with your own critical short essays.
  - You can do a combination of all three of the above.

For each page, you must write at least a 200 word description for your reader.