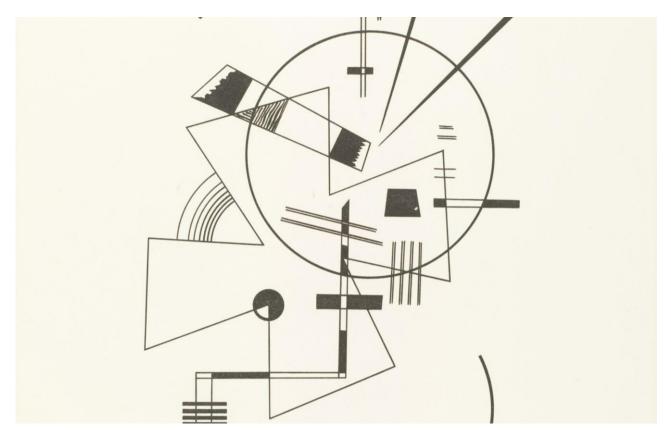
BAUHAUS

Tuesdays 20 January – 17 February 2026, 14:00-16:30.



Introduction



Tuesdays 20 January – 17 February 2026, 14:00-16:30. Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until 24 March 2026.

Overview

From our kitchens to our phones, cars and clothes, the appearance of today's world is deeply influenced by the Bauhaus, that unique, short-lived experiment in art and design education which flourished in Germany from 1919 until its closure under Nazi persecution in 1933. Its founder, architect Walter Gropius, established a radical pedagogical programme that evolved during the school's turbulent history but ultimately influenced the teaching and the nature of art and design around the world. Charismatic Bauhaus artists, designers, crafts people and architects included, Mies van der Rohe, Johannes Itten, Josef and Anni Albers, Gunta Stolzl, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Marianne Brandt, Oscar Schlemmer, Wassily Kandinski and Marcel Breuer.

This course will trace the school's background and history, introduce its complex educational theory, meet its fascinating cast of characters and discuss the classic objects designed and made there. Lectures will address the diaspora that followed its closure and describe how the school's ideas spread in response to the political, social and economic forces of the time. We will also follow the later careers of its leading exponents to reveal the school's influence on our lives today.

Your course leader

Professor Greg Votolato is a regular contributor to the V&A's learning programmes and to Oxford University's MSt in Design History. His books include American Design in the Twentieth Century; Transport Design, A Travel History; Ship; and Car plus many essays on architecture, fashion, set design, furniture and industrial design.

Programme

Week 1 - 20 January

- 13.50 Welcome, Overview and Antecedents
- 15.30 The Founder and His Manifesto

Week 2 - 27 January

- 14.00 Weimar
- 15.30 Expressionism

Week 3 - 3 February

- 14.00 Dessau
- 15.30 New Ideas and Influences

Week 4 - 10 February

- 14.00 Iconic Products
- 15.30 Bauhaus Life and Bauhaus People

Week 5 - 17 February

- 14.00 Hannes Meyer and Mies van de Rohe
- 15.30 Diaspora

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.