OBJECT-CENTERED LEARNING & THE CORE
As an academic art museum, the Smart Museum continually engages with and contributes to the intellectual life of the University of Chicago. Teaching with objects aligns with the Core's mission to strengthen interdisciplinary critical thinking skills and raise fundamental questions about human experience. As a mode of inquiry that complements traditional text-based methods, it provides an alternative platform for close reading and evidence-based arguments. There are many approaches to teaching with art objects:

- Analyze the objects as texts or cultural documents of specific socio-political, cultural, and economic contexts. Encourage students to consider museum collections and archives as primary sources for their research.

- Use objects to illustrate and/or complicate theories and texts associated with the course. Visually contextualize specific themes and material.

- Develop skills in slow looking and immersive attention. Strengthen visual literacy so that students are equipped to describe and analyze an art object.

SMART TO THE CORE EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM
Smart to the Core is an ambitious new program of exhibitions curated for teaching in the Core curriculum. Opening in Winter 2019, the first iteration is organized as primary source material for the Social Sciences sequence, “Self, Culture, and Society.” The resulting exhibition will allow students to interpret artwork in tandem with the theories and texts associated with their course. More information about Smart to the Core: Embodying the Self can be found here:
https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/smart-to-the-core-embodying-the-self/
To discuss the exhibitions program further, contact Issa Lampe, issalampe@uchicago.edu.

SMART MUSEUM OF ART
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
THE EDUCATION STUDY ROOM

The Smart’s Education Study Room makes it possible for instructors of all disciplines to lead classes using works of art tailored to their curriculum. This seminar-style room located within the museum allows for students to closely engage with artworks in a related discussion. The study room also provides a space for individual students, faculty, or outside scholars to research artworks from the museum’s collection. Visits to the study room are flexible, intimate, and enriching. Offering students direct interactions with objects from our diverse collection continually sparks meaningful discussions that contribute to the overall impact of a course.

EXAMPLES OF RECENT CORE CLASS VISITS

HUMA 14000 | Reading Cultures 1
Reviewed artworks related to Ovid’s Metamorphoses and discussed visual art as a means of adapting texts.

HUMA 14100 | Reading Cultures 2
Examined artwork by Carrie Mae Weems and Kara Walker in relation to Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. Discussed the use and effect of the gaze in both the art and the text.

HUMA 16100 | Media Aesthetics
Students conducted small group exercises to better understand the medium of photography and photographic techniques.

HUMA 16000 | Media Aesthetics 2
Reviewed objects containing Chinese calligraphy from China, Korea, and Japan to consider issues of semiotics and the materiality of writing.

GNSE/15002 | Gender & Sexuality in World Civilizations
Studied artwork by female artists—such as Cindy Sherman, Carrie Mae Weems, and Christina Ramberg—in relation to readings by Linda Nochlin and the Guerrilla Girls.

HIST 16700 | Ancient Mediterranean Worlds: Greece
Surveyed a range of Greek pottery to discuss the material culture of ancient Greece and Magna Graccia.

ARTH 18202 | Creative Destruction: War, Violence, and Upheaval in 20th Century Art
Examined work by Otto Dix and H. C. Westermann to understand the different ways that artists represent war and trauma.

ARTH 17610 | Modernism
Conducted several class visits to analyze series of work by Auguste Rodin, Jacques Callot, Otto Dix, Max Beckmann, and Max Klinger.

ARTV 20500 | Introduction to Genres: Writing in the Visual Arts
Viewed artwork by Hans Hofmann, Franz Kline, Larry Rivers, and Fairfield Porter in relation to a broader discussion on the New York School poets.

LACS 17735 | The Art of Post-Revolutionary Mexico
Practiced close looking and visual analysis using prints and photographs by Latin American artists, such as José Clemente Orozco, Manuel Álvarez Bravo, and Matta.
SELECTING OBJECTS
Interested in using the Museum’s collection, but unsure of which objects to choose? Our full collection can be accessed on our website at http://smartcollection.uchicago.edu. Smart staff are also happy to assist in the selection process. To explore which artworks would tailor best to your curriculum, contact:

Berit Ness
Assistant Curator for Academic Initiatives
bness@uchicago.edu / 773.834.9070

HOW TO BOOK A VISIT TO THE STUDY ROOM
To make a reservation to study specific works, and to choose works of art for use in the Education Study Room, please contact Berit Ness or make a booking request on our website:
https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/feitler-center/study-room/

The study room is open by appointment Tuesday through Friday, from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Other visit times may be considered on an individual basis.

Please make your reservations at least two weeks in advance of the class. The study room tends to be booked early in the quarter, so we recommend giving advance notice to ensure your chosen date and time. Lists of works for use in the study room should be provided at least one week in advance.

No more than 15 works may be requested per visit. Certain works may not be available for use due to their size, the complexity of their installation, or their condition. The instructor will be promptly informed should any works be unavailable, and alternative artworks may be suggested.

All class visits will be monitored by a Smart Museum staff member, who will be in charge of handling the art.

CO-TEACHING & DISCUSSION LEADING
To help ensure class visits to the museum are impactful, our staff of trained art historians are here to offer support – ranging from providing research on objects to leading class discussions on how to look at and analyze art. If you are interested in receiving such support, please start this conversation at least two weeks in advance of the class visit.

RULES FOR USING THE STUDY ROOM
Instructors are asked to help ensure that their students follow visitor guidelines for study in a museum.

- No food, drink, or chewing gum is to be taken into the study room (including water).
- Backpacks, large coats, and umbrellas need to be checked at the Front Desk or left in the coat room.
- Only pencils should be brought into the galleries and study room. Extra pencils are available.
- Laptops and cameras are allowed (no flash or commercial photography)
OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH THE SMART

GALLERY VISITS
Instructors are welcome to plan visits around works that are on view in the Museum's galleries. To ease comfort and accessibility, classes are welcome to use a set of gallery stools provided by the museum. Often, a special exhibition may be of interest; current and upcoming exhibition information can be found on the Smart's website: http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/

The galleries are periodically rotated and instructors should check about the availability of particular artworks before integrating them into class planning. Because the galleries are heavily used by school groups and other visitors, instructors are advised to confirm their visits in advance with Berit Ness, bnness@uchicago.edu.

TEACHING WITH OBJECTS WORKSHOPS
We would love to partner with you to host forums, conversations, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities about teaching with objects. To discuss this further, contact Issa Lampe, issalampe@uchicago.edu.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
The Smart Museum can be a platform for co-curricular class activities. To discuss co-sponsoring a class event, sequence reception, or other related programs, contact Issa Lampe, issalampe@uchicago.edu.

FACULTY GRANTS
Through its Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Endowment, the Smart is pleased to offer grants to University of Chicago faculty members who wish to integrate the Museum's collection or exhibitions into their own research or teaching. Information on proposals and how to apply can be found on the Smart's website: https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/feitler-center/uchicago-faculty/grants-for-faculty-initiatives/

Proposals might include, but are not limited to:

- Support for new courses involving Smart exhibitions or objects from our collection
- Sponsorship of faculty-suggested lectures or other events relating to the Smart’s collection, exhibitions, or programs
- Short-term research related to the Smart’s collections or exhibitions
- Assistance securing long-term loans from other museums to support a course offering
- Support for faculty publications involving Smart collections or exhibitions

OBJECT ROUNDTABLES
Each quarter, the Smart Museum's Object Roundtables engage UChicago scholars from a broad range of departments in lively discussion around art from the Smart's collection. More information can be found here: https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/feitler-center/object-roundtables/