

**Module Title:** Montage Across the Arts: Aesthetics, Modernity, Politics

**Module Code:** FLM6042

**Credit Value:** 15

**Level:** 6

**Pre-requisite modules:**

### **Content Description**

In this module, we will be exploring various forms of montage across the arts (photography, painting, film, literature, etc.) with a special focus on the developments in interwar Europe and the US. We will be investigating whether montage appeared as a general artistic principle across the arts approximately at the same time or whether we can identify a single art medium as its birthplace. Drawing on pinnacles of modernist art such as Dada and Cubist collages and photomontages, early, Hollywood and Soviet cinema, city symphonies, and modernist novels, we will analyze stylistic, narratological, and perceptual aspects of montage in different media. We will discuss whether we can causally explain the appearance of montage as a stylistic phenomenon with recourse to modernity as a cultural epoch and explain the difference between causation and exemplification. We will conclude by looking at the connections between the various features of montage and the new form of experience ushered in by rapid urbanization of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, while paying special attention to contemporary sources.

### **Module Aims**

By the end of this module the students will:

- understand the concept of montage defined both broadly and narrowly
- analyze montage practices across the arts while identifying their shared and medium-specific traits alike
- appreciate and critically engage with the political uses of montage
- command and apply terminology necessary for stylistic, narratological and perceptual analysis of montage
- distinguish between textual and reception-based analyses of montage
- distinguish between the notions of causation and exemplification when relating cultural epochs to aesthetic practices
- critically evaluate contemporary debates pertinent to different forms of montage practice
- gather, organize and use information, concepts, and ideas to formulate clear arguments and express them effectively in written and oral forms alike
- work autonomously under time constraints