ARTh 390 - Looking at Bodies: A Study of Gendered Bodies in Art History

Lecture: Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 12:00AM
Tutorials: Group A: Thursday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Group B 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 PM - 4:00PM

This course offers an introduction to art history that infuses the study of artworks with critical readings of gendered bodies. Students will learn how to observe, read and analyze bodies in works of art that have been selected for their breadth, the themes they engage with, and, of course, for their beauty. Throughout the semester, students will be invited to share their thoughts and experiences through class discussions, tutorials and assignments. Because the texts and readings, and sometimes episodes of popular TV shows, listed below are not exhaustive, and have only been included to provide an introduction to both art history and gender studies, students will have opportunities to continue doing the work that this syllabus has begun. Students will do this by developing a class bibliography during the course of the semester, which they will consult for their class presentations and final assignments.

While this is an art history course, the readings are predominantly concerned with the discipline of gender studies. This has been done intentionally in order to demonstrate to students one way in which art history can be paired with other scholarship to produce research that is rich, intersectional, and reflective of the many complexities of each of our lives. Fundamentally, students will learn to read and analyze visual material shared in this class. Students will also be encouraged to take their thoughts, concerns and interests beyond the classroom and into the world.

Kama La Mackarel, *Breaking the Promise of Tropical Emptiness: Trans Subjectivity in the Postcard* (2019)
COURSE POLICIES

Communication
Students may email either myself or the tutorial leaders with any questions and concerns throughout the semester. Please allow a minimum of seventy-two hours (excluding weekends) for us to reply to your email. If you do not receive a reply after seventy-two hours, please resend the message.

Students are also encouraged to attend office hours to ask any questions or speak about their experiences in the course. While students may show up to office hours without an appointment, it is highly recommended that you schedule an appointment to ensure you are able to meet with us during office hours.

Late Work
The late policy is often the most uncomfortable section of a syllabus. On one hand, many professors understand that life does not always go as planned - sometimes events in our lives take precedence over school work, it is only natural. However, on the other hand, this course is offered within an institution that adheres to its own set of rules (whether or not those rules have our best interest in mind is another question altogether). As a result, please accept our attempt at offering an empathetic late policy.

All assignments will be due at 5:00PM on the date of submission. Any late assignments (meaning those submitted after 5:00PM) will be deducted 2 marks per day until it is submitted. If assignments are up to a week (7 days, including weekends) late, they will be deducted by a whole letter grade. This means that if your assignment is 6 days late, you will lose 12 marks, and if it is 1 week (7 days) late, a whole letter grade will be deducted from the final grade.

Extensions
Extensions may be awarded on a case-by-case basis. Please contact me, preferably several days in advance of a deadline, if you would like to request an extension.

Honor Code
All participants in this course (students, teaching assistants and professor) must abide by the honour code set out by Emory. You can find the honour code in its entirety here: http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html

Class Expectations
Please show up to class and tutorials on time, ready to discuss the readings and your assignments. All readings and assignments are mandatory - please ensure that you complete everything assigned in this course to the best of your abilities.

A note on Plagiarism
Please make sure that all the work you submit is your own. If you borrow ideas from other scholars and thinkers, please provide a citation in the correct reference style. Do not copy, paraphrase or translate someone else’s ideas without stating where this information is from!
ASSIGNMENTS

A Bibliography of Bodies in Art History
Due: Every Monday at 5:00PM
Every week, students will submit one image and two scholarly articles related to the week’s topic. Students cannot choose an image or article that is already listed in the syllabus. Students will have the opportunity to share their findings in their weekly tutorials.

Visual Analysis #1: 500 words
Due: Tuesday of week 3 at 5:00PM
Students are asked to submit a 500 word visual analysis of any artwork of their choosing, related to topics of gender and the body. The analysis must describe the visual qualities of the student’s chosen artwork. Although students are welcome to consult and cite external sources for this assignment, it is not a requirement.

Visual Analysis #2: 1000 words
Due: Tuesday of week 9 at 5:00PM
Like the first visual analysis, students must select an image and study its visual qualities. The selected image must be related to topics of gender and the body. For this assignment, students are asked to consult and reference a minimum of two external sources in their visual analysis.

Presentations
Due: Weeks 11 and 12 during class
In the last two weeks of the semester, students must give a 10 minute presentation of at least two different artworks in the syllabus, selected from at least two different weeks. Students are also welcome to refer to the images and texts shared by their peers in the Bibliographies of Bodies in Art History. Presentations must include a brief visual analysis of the selected images, and a comparative analysis of the differences and/or similarities between the chosen works. Students must refer to a minimum of two texts from either the syllabus or the class bibliography, and, if necessary, may also consult external sources.

Final Paper: 3000 words
Due: Two Weeks after last class
For their final paper, students are asked to expand on their presentations and write a 3000 word paper that critically engages with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 works selected from at least two separate weeks in the syllabus and/or the bibliography. The paper must ask one driving question (thesis statement) that is further expanded on with a strong argument based on thorough research. As part of their analysis, students must refer to a minimum of 5 sources listed in the syllabus and/or the bibliography. The purpose of this assignment is to teach students to put artworks from disparate contexts in conversation with one another by engaging existing scholarship to explore new and stimulating questions. Although it is not required, students are recommended to meet with myself or their tutorial leaders to discuss ideas for their final paper.
GRADING

Weighted Assessments:
Attendance and Participation (based on class and tutorial) 15%
Contribution to Bibliography of Bodies in Art History 25%
Visual Analysis #1 10%
Visual Analysis #2 20%
Final Paper 30%

Assessment and Feedback
Students will receive feedback on all of their submitted work, except for the bibliography. The purpose of the feedback is to offer suggestions that will help to refine and progress students’ work throughout the semester. If students feel that they have been given an unfair mark or feedback, please schedule an appointment to speak with me about it. Although I cannot promise to provide the marks that students may desire, I will strive to further explain the reasoning for grading their work in a particular way, as well as provide suggestions that students may apply to future work to ensure that they receive an improved grade.
Week 1: The Performance of Gender
January 26, 2021

Tutorials begin on January 28.


Week 2: A Look at Bodies in the Past
February 2, 2021


Week 3: Naked versus Nude  
February 9, 2021

Visual Analysis #1 due today at 5:00PM


Week 4: Locating the Hottentot Venus in the Archive  
February 16, 2021


Week 5: Beyond the Binary
February 23, 2021


Week 6: The Homoerotic
March 2, 2021


**Week 7: Women and Arts and Crafts**  
March 9, 2021


**Week 8: The Body in Crisis**  
March 16, 2021


Please watch season 1 of *Pose* (Available on Netflix)  
*Pose*. 2018. Season 1. Directed by Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, Steven Canals. Aired on June 3, 2018 on FX.

**Week 9: Censoring the Erotic**  
March 23, 2021

Visual analysis #2 due today at 5:00PM


Week 10: Queering the Future
March 30, 2021

Last week of tutorials


Week 11: Class Presentations
April 6, 2021

Week 12: Class Presentations
April 13, 2021

Final Assignment Due
April 27, 2021