AH555: Pro-Seminar in 19th-Century European Art: The Body in French and British Visual Culture

4-6PM T L170

**Instructor:**
Nancy Rose Marshall  
Office: LVM 224  
Phone: 263-2342  
nrmmarshall@wisc.edu  
Office Hours T (1230-2:00PM) or by Appt.

This course investigates representations of the body in nineteenth-century French and British art and visual culture. In this period, depictions of the body negotiated a range of specific aesthetic, artistic, and cultural concerns. We will start out by questioning why the human form became the central focus for art in the first place and move on to examine the ways in which various representations of the body produced and reinforced a range of political and social hierarchies of race, class, and gender. Each week we will treat a different category of these issues. Focusing equally on Britain and France, we will look at photography and "low" art alongside fine art, including sculpture.
GOALS of COURSE

1. As a capstone seminar for art history majors, this class aims to provide you with the research, writing, and creative thinking tools necessary for your professionalization as an art historian (hence “Pro-Seminar”). Even if you have no plans to go to graduate school or ever look at a painting again, this class gives you an opportunity to observe, learn and practice what art historians do.

2. To provide an overview of the nineteenth-century modes of representing and understanding the body along with the socio-historical context that produced such representations.

BACKGROUND

Course Texts:
*Weekly Articles in Course Packet Available at Bob’s Copies, 1401 University Avenue
*Powerpoints on Learn@UW

REQUIREMENTS
• Participation in discussion and demonstration of familiarity with readings (essential) %15

• Brief Presentation and Write-Up on Reviews of Victorian Painting 15%
• Multi-Stage Research Term Paper
  Topic for Research Paper 5%
  Due: 13 Oct.

Written Analysis of Art Object Related to Paper
15%
Due: 3 Nov.

Thesis Statement and Brief Informal presentation
to class on your topic: 10%
Due: 24 Nov.

Final Paper(at least 12 pp.) 25%
Due: 18 Dec.

Presentation on Term Paper with Images (One of
Last Three Weeks of Class) 15%

Writing Center
For help with your writing, go the to the Writing Center,
6171 Helen C. White Hall, tel. 263-1992. You can email them
at writing@wisc.edu. They also run non-credit classes of one
or a few sessions each, to help you with a range of writing
issues such as “the ten most important things to know about
academic writing,” and “writing resumes and cover letters.”
Check them out at http://www.wisc.edu/writing.

Class Policies
All absences must be explained in advance and excused.

No late work will be accepted unless an extension is granted
ahead of time for a viable medical or personal reason. If
you hand in something late without notifying me, you will be
marked down. No work will be accepted by fax or email.

Academic Integrity Policy
You are expected to be responsible to know what constitutes
academic dishonesty. If you are unclear about this, speak
to me or your teaching assistant. The two most common types
of academic dishonesty are “cheating” and “plagiarism.”
Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain
academic work through the use of dishonest, deceptive or
fraudulent acts. Plagiarism is representing the work of
someone else as one’s own and submitting it to fulfill
academic requirements. Common examples of academic
dishonesty:
1.Cheating: Copying from someone else’s exam, altering or
interfering with grading, using or consulting any outside
sources during an examination.
2.Plagiarism: Incorporating ideas, words, sentences, or
paragraphs of another person’s writing(this includes the
Internet!!!!) into one’s own, without appropriate
credit(endnotes or footnotes). Submitting a paper purchased
from a research or term paper service, or turning in another person’s paper as your own. Incorporating parts or all of previous papers you have written for other courses without citing yourself.

3. Other Bad Things: Giving your homework, term paper, or other assignment to another to copy, lying to an instructor to improve your grade (i.e., about the nature of absences), altering graded work after it has been returned, stealing examinations or tests, having a typist correct a work for spelling or grammar.

See University of Wisconsin-Madison Disciplinary Guidelines
Week 1. 8 Sept.
Introduction

Week 2. 15 Sept.
The Ideal Body
John Berger, Sections, Ways of Seeing (1972)
Kenneth Clark, "The Naked and the Nude," The Nude: A Study in Ideal Form (1953)

Week 3. 22 Sept.
The Female Body
Lynda Nead, "Framing the Female Body," The Female Nude: Art, Obscenity and Sexuality (1992)
Alison Smith, "Case Study: Millais' Knight Errant," The Victorian Nude (1996)

Week 4. 29 Sept.
The Male Body
Abigail Solomon-Godeau, Selections, Male Trouble: A Crisis in Representation (1997)

Review Picture:
*William Powell Frith, Railway Station, 1862—Megan

Week 5. 6 Oct.
The Child's Body
Laurel Bradley, "From Eden to Empire: John Everett Millais’ Cherry Ripe," Victorian Studies (Winter 1991) and "Reply to
Pamela Tamarkin Reis’ ‘Victorian Centerfold,’” in Victorian Studies (Winter 1992)

Review Pictures:
*George Elgar Hicks, General Post Office, One Minute to Six, 1860
*James Tissot, London Visitors, 1874

Week 6. 13 Oct.
The Scandalous Body
*Brief Descriptions to Class of Topic (1/2) class
*Paper Topic Due

Review Picture:
*Augustus Leopold Egg, Past and Present, 1858

Week 7. 20 Oct.
The Orientalized/Colonized Body
Stephen Eisenman, Gauguin’s Skirt, 1997
Paul Gauguin, Selections, Noa Noa: The Tahitian Journal, 1919
*Brief Descriptions to Class of Topic (1/2 class)

Review Picture:
*William Powell Frith, Derby Day, 1858

Week 8. 27 Oct.
The Classed Body
Review Pictures:
* William Holman Hunt, *Hireling Shepherd*, 1851

Week 9. 3 Nov.
The Mindless Body
* Formal Analysis Due

Week 10. 10 Nov.
The "Homosexual" Body
Albert Boime, "The Case of Rosa Bonheur: Why Should a Woman Be More Like a Man?" *Art History* (Dec. 1981)

Review Picture:
* James Tissot, *The Thames*, 1876

Week 11. 17 Nov.
The Dead Body

Review Pictures:
* Henry Wallis, *Death of Chatterton*, 1856
* William Powell Frith, *Race for Wealth*, 1880

Week 12. 24 Nov.
Presentations
* Thesis Due
* Bibliography Due
Week 13. 1 Dec.
Presentations

Week 14. 8 Dec.
Presentations

Week 15. 15 Dec.
Presentations

**FINAL PAPER DUE Friday 18 Dec.**