ARTh 600 Historiography and Methods of Research in Art History

Mondays 4:30-7:10  
Classroom: Research Hall 201  
Professor: Michele Greet  
Email: mgreet@gmu.edu  
Phone: 703-993-1250 (This is a general office number where you may leave a message. The best way to reach me is via email)  
Office: Robinson Hall B371A  
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00, Wednesday 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

Course Description: This course will consider the history of art history, examining how approaches to understanding and interpreting art have evolved over time. Today art historians may choose from a variety of research methods such as iconography, formalism, social history, biography, as well as feminist, Marxist, and post-modern theories. This course will examine the historical context in which these options emerged as well as the implications of adopting a particular approach. The subject of this course is thus art history itself rather than a specific movement or era.

Course Format: This class will consist of seminar-style discussions of assigned readings and critical assessment of the readings led by different students in the class. Written assignments will compliment in class discussions.

Objectives:
- To recognize, assess, and employ art historical methodology
- To learn to read critically in order to determine an author’s approach or biases
- To understand how historical context influences how art is understood and interpreted
- To perform specialized research using the methods discussed in class, resulting in a class presentation and research paper

Course Requirements:
- Readings: Complete all reading before the class. If a reading is listed under Sept. 14, for example, it should be completed before class on the 14th.
- Attendance/Participation: (10% of your grade) Since this class is designed as a seminar, class participation is essential. Participation refers to both the content of your verbal contributions as well as your attention and response to others’ comments. The GMU catalogue reads: “Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register…instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of non-participation.”
- Lead discussion: (10% of your grade) Each student will be required to lead a discussion of the assigned readings in one class (depending on enrollment, students may have to work in teams). Leading the discussion entails presenting a
clear and concise outline of one of the assigned articles and preparing 4-5 questions for discussion based on or in response to the readings. The questions should not require a yes/no answer, but rather provoke thoughtful response.

- **Reading response blog posts:** (20% of your grade) 3-4 paragraph response to the readings assigned for that day *(you must turn in at least 8 out of 9 response papers)*. Specific instructions to be posted on blackboard.

- **Paper topic proposal:** (10% of your grade) One page abstract, which summarizes the ideas to be discussed in your paper and an annotated bibliography of at least 15 sources.

- **Presentation:** (15% of your grade) 20-minute powerpoint (Prezi or Artstor are also fine) presentation of your research topic to be followed by class discussion. The issues raised in the discussion following your presentation should inform the final revisions to your research paper.

- **Final Research Paper:** (35% of your grade) 15-18 page research paper (with footnotes, bibliography and illustrations). Specific assignment to be posted on blackboard.

**Grading Standards:**
C is the average expected performance of a college Student. To receive a C you must complete all readings and assignments on time, demonstrate a basic knowledge of the material, and write competently (all assignments must be well organized and have correct spelling and grammar). To receive a B your work must be substantially better than average and to receive an A truly exceptional. A work is meticulously researched, well written, and imaginative and goes above and beyond the assignment.

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\begin{array}{ccc}
    A+ & 98-100 & C+ & 77-79 \\
    A & 93-97 & C & 73-76 \\
    A- & 90-92 & C- & 70-72 \\
    B+ & 87-89 & D & 60-69 \\
    B & 83-86 & F & 59 and lower \\
    B- & 80-82 & & \\
\end{array}
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**Policies:**
- Students are responsible for all material covered in class (announcements, lectures, discussions) whether you are present or not.
- Late assignments are not acceptable. Any work turned in late without a valid written excuse (i.e. doctor’s note) will be graded down one grade per class late. If an assignment is not turned in by the last day of class you will be given a 0 for that assignment. If you are having difficulty completing an assignment please see
me well before the assignment is due. If I am aware of your circumstances I am more than willing to work with you.

- Make-up presentations or extensions will be granted only in the case of documented emergencies.
- GMU operates with an Honor Code. It is clearly defined in the catalogue (http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/9798/honorcod.html#code) Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s ideas or words as your own without proper acknowledgement) violates the Honor Code. I will notify the Honor Committee concerning possible infractions.
- GMU requires you to activate your GMU e-mail account to receive official campus communications. If you prefer to use another address, you must activate the e-mail forwarder. I will use GMU addresses exclusively.
- Cell phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off during class.
- Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities, in accordance with law and university policies. Students requiring accommodations must register with the University’s Disability Resource Center 703-993-2474 and produce documentation. Please do this well before the first test or presentation in case alternate arrangements need to be made.
- If English is your second language, I encourage you to turn in a rough draft of your paper at least one week before it is due. If needed I will recommend that you work with the Writing Center. All final papers must be in good standard English.

Important dates:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Labor Day: Class does not meet</td>
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<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>Last day to add classes</td>
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<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Library class</td>
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<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Last day to drop classes</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Columbus Day: Class does not meet</td>
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<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Monday classes meet on Tuesday/ Paper topic proposals due</td>
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<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Presentations/Final papers due (except those students who present today)</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Final papers due for those who presented on Dec. 1</td>
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Required texts:


Articles on blackboard or JSTOR.
Lecture/Discussion Schedule:

Aug. 25 Introduction
- Hatt and Klonk: Introduction and chapter 1 “A variety of interpretations: a preview”

Sept. 1 Labor Day no class

Sept. 8 Hegel
- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 3 “Hegel and the birth of art history”

Sept. 15 Connoisseurship
- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 4 “Connoisseurship”
- Recent debates (be sure to read the comment section as well):
  - Myrone, Martin. “We don’t need the ‘new’ connoisseurs,” The Art Newspaper, Issue 258, June 2014, Published online: 05 June 2014: http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/We-dont-need-the-new-connoisseurs/32879

Sept. 2 Library Class: Meet in Fenwick Instruction Room.
- You must have installed zotero on your computer by this date. The library offers zotero workshops http://library.gmu.edu/workshops (available dates are Sept. 5 2pm; Sept. 16 3pm, Sept. 17 5pm)
- You must also have chosen a topic for your historiography by today. Meet with me during my office hours prior to this class to discuss your topic.

Sept 29 Iconography
- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 6 “Iconography-icology: Erwin Panofsky”
Iconography project using Thinglink [https://www.thinglink.com/](https://www.thinglink.com/) (specific assignment to be posted on blackboard)

Oct. 6 Formalism

- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 5 “Formalism: Heinrich Wöfflin and Alois Riegl

Oct. 13 Columbus Day no class

Oct. 14 (Monday classes meet on Tuesday)
Marxism/Social History **Paper topic proposals due**

- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 7 “Marxism and the social history of art”

Oct. 20 Feminism

- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 8 “Feminism”
Oct. 27 Psychoanalysis

- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 9 “Psychoanalysis”

Nov. 3 Semiotics

- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 10 “Semiotics”
- Saussure, Fernand de. “The Object of Study” and “Nature of the linguistic sign.”

Nov. 10 Postcolonialism

- Hatt and Klonk: chapter 11 “Postcolonialism”

Nov. 17 Presentations

Nov. 24 Presentations

Dec. 1 Presentations/Final paper due (those who present today due by Dec. 8)