ARH102: Art History 2 • Museum Analysis Paper   due Thurs 18 April (hard copy, in class)

The intent of this assignment is to use the ideas and concepts covered in class to understand two works you see **in person this semester** at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (Green line to Museum stop, free with your student ID).
<u>Don't forget to save your dated museum ticket to turn in with your paper</u>

The assignment:

Analyze and compare/contrast two works from two different periods/movements we have covered, one from before 1800 and one from 1800 or later, in relation to a theme or concept relevant to the course. Sample themes could include: religion/spirituality, wealth/poverty, gender/sexuality/race, political propaganda, and social criticism/protest. For example, you could compare/contrast different cultural expressions of spirituality, or contrast a work of political propaganda with a work of social criticism, or discuss how gender or race is represented in different works/periods. If you want to run your ideas for works and theme past me, please don't hesitate to get in touch. The paper should be about 6 pages long, 1.5 or double-spaced in Times 12 point with 1-inch margins.

For each work, you should discuss:

- What style/period/movement is the work representative of? How so, in subject matter, form, and intent?
- What do you think the artist was trying to 'say' with the work? How do the artist's choices of subject matter and form help to convey that meaning?
- How does the work relate to its context (social, cultural, religious, intellectual, economic, political, etc.)?
- How does the work exemplify relevant concepts we have covered in class (using proper terms)?
- How does the work relate to your chosen theme, in comparison/contrast to your other work?

Organization:

The clearest way to organize your paper would be: (a) introductory paragraph that identifies the works you will be considering (artist, title, nationality, date) and states your chosen theme; (b) analyze the earlier work for about 2 pages; (c) analyze the later work for about two pages; (d) conclude with a direct comparison/contrast of the two works in relation to your chosen theme.

Academic Honesty:

<u>This is a looking and thinking project, not a research project</u>. You may need to look up basic information about the subject matter if, for example, you don't know the biblical or mythological story being told, but <u>do not do any research on the works themselves</u> beyond reading the museum labels. <u>Do your own analysis of the works and use your own words</u>. Do not copy or closely paraphrase any outside source. Doing so will result in an automatic zero, and be reported to the Academic Misconduct Committee. The use of AI technology such as Chat-GPT also constitutes academic misconduct because it presents work as your own when it wasn't.

Your grade will be based on the following factors:

- ✓ **Your choice of works**. Don't choose works just because you like them: choose works that you can analyze clearly in relation to the styles/periods/concepts we are covering in class, and that relate in an interesting way to your chosen theme. Do not choose Turner's <u>Slave Ship</u>, Monet's <u>Rouen Cathedral</u>, or Cassatt's <u>In the Loge (Woman in black at the opera)</u>, since we are already covering those works in class.
- ✓ **Evidence that you have seen the works in person this semester**. Either (1) turn in a dated museum admission ticket with your paper, or (2) email me a selfie (face visible) in front of one of your works.
- ✓ **Your use of relevant class concepts**, both in terms of skills (being able to analyze and interpret your chosen works) and in terms of knowledge (characteristics of the relevant styles/periods/movements, understanding of their historical contexts, use of relevant terms, etc.)
- ✓ **Your analysis of the works**, which should be detailed, thorough, and address all of the questions above.
- ✓ **Your choice of theme**, which should be clearly relevant to both works, and allow you to make an interesting comparison/contrast of the two works.
- ✓ **Your writing**. Without good organization and clear writing I will not understand your ideas. Write as though you were explaining the work and ideas to someone who has not taken this class: I will grade it based on how well I think such a person would understand the work and ideas from your paper.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email me at ccramer@suffolk.edu