

This assignment involves visiting the Boston MFA (Green 'E' line to Museum stop; free with your student ID) and applying the knowledge and analytic ability you have acquired from this course to a work of your own choosing there. Be sure you attach your dated museum ticket to your paper. It is a good idea to take a selfie in front of your work in case you lose your museum ticket. Because we will be discussing these museum papers in class, it is also essential that you turn your paper in on time: late papers on works that we have already discussed in class will not be accepted.

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### The assignment:

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Choose an 18th or 19th-century European work (not American, although works by Benjamin West in the American wing are fine, since he primarily worked in England) that exemplifies one of the styles/movements we have been talking about in class: Rococo, modern moral subjects, Neo-classicism, Romanticism, picturesque landscape, or sublime landscape.

- ✓ Identify it by artist, title, nationality, and date.
- ✓ Analyze the work to explain how it fits into one (or more) of the types of work above. Take into account both subject/story and its form/style (composition, use of color, brushwork etc).
- ✓ Explain the intended meaning(s) or purpose(s) of the work in relation to the work's social context (religion, politics, social history, etc., as relevant) and probable intended audience.
- ✓ Briefly discuss how your work is similar to one work we have covered in class, and how your work contrasts one work we have covered in class. Choose your compare/contrast works wisely to make significant, relevant points.

The paper should be at least 3½ pages long, typed double-spaced with at least 1-inch margins.

**This is a looking and thinking project, not a research project.** 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 do not do any research on the work itself beyond reading the museum label. Do your own analysis of the work and use your own words. 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 was not.

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### Your grade will be based on the following factors:

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- ✓ **Your choice of work.** Don't choose a work just because you like it: choose a work that you can analyze clearly in relation to the major styles and issues we are covering in class. Do not choose a work we have discussed in class, but other works by the same artists are fine.
- ✓ **Evidence that you have seen the work 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 your work. Also, discuss aspects of the work that are not visible in reproduction, such as size/scale, brushwork, etc.
- ✓ **Your thesis.** Be sure you have one, and be sure you concentrate your analysis of the work on supporting it. No need to get fancy; a simple "This work is a good example of a modern moral painting intended to teach lessons to a growing bourgeois audience" (or whatever) will do fine.
- ✓ **Your analysis of the work,** which should be thorough and directly relevant to your thesis. What characteristics identify the work as exemplifying that style, movement, or concept? How do the artist's choices of subject-matter and style contribute to the intended meaning/purpose of the work?
- ✓ **Your incorporation of the ideas from the readings and lectures.** You should directly compare/contrast your work to two other works we have studied in class (see above), and reference specific, relevant ideas from class lecture/discussion/readings (not from online sources).
- ✓ **Your writing.** Without good organization and clear writing I will not understand your ideas. Write as though you were explaining the work to someone who has not taken this class: I will grade your paper based on how well I think such a person would understand the work after reading it.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to email me at [ccramer@suffolk.edu](mailto:ccramer@suffolk.edu)