

This assignment involves a comparison/contrast of two (2) 19th-century European works that you see in person this semester at the Boston MFA or Harvard Art Museum (both free with your student ID). Be sure to save and attach your museum ticket to your paper; or if you go to Harvard Art Museum, you'll have to take a selfie since they don't use tickets. 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.

**The assignment:**

Analyze and compare/contrast two works from two different styles/movements in relation to a theme or concept relevant to the course. Both works should be from styles/movements we have covered since the last paper, including Realism, Academic Art, Orientalism, Regional Naturalism, Pre-Raphaelites, nineteenth-century photography, Aestheticism, and Impressionism (not including Post-Impressionists such as Gauguin & Van Gogh). Works by the American artists Whistler and Cassatt are OK, since they worked primarily in a European context. Sample themes could include social class, gender, nationalism/patriotism, race/othering, art as propaganda vs. art as social criticism, tradition vs. modernity, systematically contrasting 2 movements/styles, etc.

**For each work, discuss:**

- What style/period/movement is the work representative of? How so, in both subject matter and form?
- What do you think the artist was trying to 'say' with the work, or what was the purpose of the work? How do the artist's choices of subject matter and form help to convey that meaning/purpose?
- How does the work relate to its context (social, historical, cultural/national, religious, economic, political, etc.)?
- How does the work exemplify relevant concepts we have been discussing in class, using appropriate 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 will be: (a) introductory paragraph that identifies the works you will be considering (artist, title, nationality, date) and introduces your chosen theme; (b) analyze work 1 for about 2 pages; (c) analyze work 2 for about two pages; (d) conclude with a direct comparison/contrast of the two works in relation to your theme. The paper should be c. 6 pages long, 1.5 or double-spaced in Times 12 point with 1-inch margins.

**Academic Honesty:**

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 works themselves beyond reading the museum labels. Do your own analysis of the works 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 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 Monet's Rouen Cathedral or Cassatt's Woman in Black at the Opera (The Loge) since we are covering them in class, but other works by those artists are fair game.
- ✓ **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 (knowing the characteristics of the styles/movements, understanding their historical contexts, using relevant terms, etc.)
- ✓ **Your analyses 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](mailto:ccramer@suffolk.edu)