Historiography

Histories of the History of Art and Architecture

Course Description

Historiography is the study of the writing of history. This graduate seminar, which is one of three core courses within HAA’s graduate program (along with Methods and Pedagogy Theory), focuses on the writing of the history of art and architecture over time. It is team-taught by two graduate faculty members in alternating fall semesters, as a key component of the department’s organization into research constellations, which encompass shared intellectual questions and interpretative approaches that extend broadly across chronological, geographical, and medium-specific parameters. While the constellations currently include Agency, Contemporaneity, Environment, Identity, Mobility and Exchange, and Visual Knowledge, they are understood to be flexible and constantly evolving—just as are approaches to the writing of the history of art and architecture.

This course brings together professors and students for a revisionist examination of how the history of global art and architecture has been written and taught, predominantly in Anglo-American contexts and since the early twentieth century. In studying the history of the discipline with an emphasis on addressing absences and disparities, we seek pathways for our own writing and teaching. From the perspective of the department, the university, the discipline, and the state of the humanities and social sciences at the broadest possible level, we are particularly invested in intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality. We also seek points of contact and conflict between “East” and “West”—in terms not only of subject matter, but of differing conceptions of and approaches to history.

Our point of departure is feminist approaches to the history of art and architecture, through which we will consider case studies drawn from a range of subfields and disciplinary perspectives. In addition, we will engage with questions of globalism, race and ethnicity, and practices of collection and display. This course has been planned to take advantage of related activities happening at Pitt and in Pittsburgh, including the visits of Pamela Patton, Jacqueline Jung, and Kavita Singh, as well as the 57th Carnegie International exhibition, which will open in October and remain on view through March 2019.

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Course Objectives

Art historical, museum studies, and theoretical knowledge:

- Participants will gain knowledge of major tendencies within (predominantly Anglophone) scholarship on the history of art and architecture.
- Through readings, discussions, and analysis of works of art and architecture, participants will be introduced to a range of theoretical and disciplinary approaches.

Critical thinking, reading, and writing skills:

- Participants will synthesize information and hone their analytical and critical reading, research, and writing skills through careful assessment of a range of materials, by writing journal entries, and by completing three assignments.

Oral argumentation and discussion skills:

- Participants will refine their ability to present ideas, engage in dialogue, and defend arguments by engaging in regular discussions with peers and guests, leading discussion in selected weeks, and delivering presentations on their own research.

Course Materials

Readings and other materials will be posted to the course’s Courseweb site at least one week before each class meeting, in the folder for the appropriate week.

All materials on the CourseWeb site are for your educational purposes in this class only. Materials may not be posted on the Internet or shared electronically with others outside the class.

Course Components and Evaluation

- Attendance and Participation 25%
  Consistent, well-prepared, and active participation in seminar discussions (includes leading two class discussions)

- Journal entries 20%
  (300–500 words; 10 are assigned, 8 will be counted for credit)

- Assignment 1 (due Oct. 1) 10%
- Assignment 2 (due Nov. 12) 15%
- In-class presentations of Assignments and Final Essay 10%
- Final Essay (due Dec. 15) 20%
Historiography
HAA 2007    CRN 29402    2191 (Fall 2018)    Tu, 2:30–5:20pm    Frick Fine Arts 104

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Course Schedule
* The following schedule and topics are only a guide, and are subject to change.
* Events in **boldface** type are crucial to this course.
* Assigned readings and other materials to be viewed before class are listed in that week’s folder under Course Documents on Courseweb.

WEEK 1

**Tu, Aug. 28**  Why Historiography Now?
- Aruna d’Souza, Introduction to Art History in the Wake of the Global Turn, ed. Aruna d’Souza and Jill Casid (Clark Art Institute, 2014), vii–xxiii.

WEEK 2

**Tu, Sept. 4**  The Polemics of Feminist Historiography, West and East
- [review Nochlin essays]

Journal 1 due

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WEEK 3

Tu, Sept. 11  Case Study: Olympia

Journal 2 due

Th, Sept. 13  Pamela Patton Guest Lecture, “Skin and Servitude in Medieval Iberian Art,” Frick 202, 4pm

WEEK 4

Tu, Sept. 18  Life, Work, and Historiography

Journal 3 due
WEEK 5

Tu, Sept. 25  Contending with the “Primitive”


Journal 4 due

WEEK 6

M, Oct. 1  Assignment 1 due on Courseweb by 9am

Tu, Oct. 2  Discussion of Assignment 1

WEEK 7

Tu, Oct. 9  Displaying Bodies in Architecture

- Partha Mitter, “‘Decadent’ Art of South Indian Temples,” in Views of Difference: Different Views of Art (Yale/Open University, 1999), 93–118.

Journal 5 due

WEEK 8

Tu, Oct. 16  FALL BREAK – CLASS DOES NOT MEET
WEEK 9

Tu, Oct. 23  Race, Ethnicity, and the Other in Architectural History

Journal 6 due

WEEK 10

Tu, Oct. 30 Workshop with Prof. Kavita Singh: Decolonizing the Museum
- James Elkins, “Art History as a Global Discipline,” 2006 [online]

Journal 7 due

Th., Nov. 1  Kavita Singh lecture

F, Nov. 2  Workshop on Erwin Panofsky with Profs. Jacqueline Jung and Sonja Drimmer

Nov. 2–3  HAA Graduate Symposium: Motivating Monuments;
Keynote Lecture by Jacqueline Jung
WEEK 11

Tu, Nov. 6  Bodies and Things, Place and Space
- Svetlana Alpers, “Interpretation without Representation, or the Viewing of Las Meninas,” *Representations*, 1983
- Responses to Hamann's article by Walter Mignolo, Suzanne Stratton-Pruitt, others

**Journal 8 due**
*Election Day*

WEEK 12

M, Nov. 12  Assignment 2 due on Courseweb by 9am

Tu, Nov. 13  Discussion of Assignment 2

WEEK 13

Tu, Nov. 20  THANKSGIVING WEEK – CLASS DOES NOT MEET

WEEK 14

Tu, Nov. 27  Bringing East and West into Conversation
- Gao Minglu, “Yi Pai, The School of Notion” [book manuscript]
- Other readings tbd

**Journal 9 due**
WEEK 15

Tu, Dec. 4  Reflections: Why Historiography Now?
- Iversen and Melville, “Curriculum,” *Writing Art History*
- Jill Casid, Epilogue to *Art History in the Wake of the Global Turn*

Journal 10 due

WEEK 16

Tu, Dec. 11  Discussion of Final Papers and End-of-Semester Celebration

F, Dec. 15  Final papers due via Courseweb by 9am