Course Description: Art History Senior Seminar explores research methodologies and practices of scholarship relevant to the study of a topic in art history. The course is organized and delivered as a seminar consisting of assigned readings, class discussion, and substantial oral and written work. It is taught on a rotating basis by art history faculty. Prerequisites: ART 1200, 2350 and 2360; AEAH 4800; and 9 hours of advanced art history. Students enrolled in the course must be art history majors and have a degree plan on file.

Course Content & Objectives: This seminar will explore how divine and human bodies are represented in South Asian art. Topics under consideration include how notions of asceticism, fecundity, and gender are constructed through articulations of the body and its adornment. In addition to looking at how gods and goddesses are represented (particularly in Hindu and Buddhist sculpture), we will also examine how humans are depicted, especially as patrons, the ruling elite, and/or pious devotees. Although this seminar gives primacy to ancient and medieval artistic expressions, we will also briefly address certain themes of the body in modern and contemporary works.

In addition to the course content outlined above, we will also spend considerable time further developing writing skills required in art historical research. These skills include the writing of abstracts, annotated bibliographies, and research papers.

Goals of the course include:
(1) to foster critical thinking
(2) to refine writing skills
(3) to further develop research skills
(4) to enhance presentation skills and the articulation of ideas in the classroom

There is no assigned textbook for this course. However, weekly readings are available in one of three formats: (1) on reserve in the library (Eagle Commons Library); (2) on JSTOR; or (3) on Blackboard Learn (learn.unt.edu).

Course Structure: This seminar meets once a week for two hours and fifty minutes. The course is structured on the reading, presentation, and discussion of publications that feature aspects related to the study of the body in South Asian art. Though we address a different theme each week, the readings complement each other so that we can explore conceptions and articulations of the body across time, space, and media. Students will be assigned readings in common throughout the course but will also have the opportunity to pursue individual research. For each class meeting, students are expected to have thoroughly read, and digested, the assigned readings. Moreover, it is the student-based presentations and discussions of these readings that make up the course. In other words, I do not lecture. I encourage
students to come and see me during office hours if they are having difficulty with the material or if they feel they are not expressing themselves adequately in class.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**
Weekly Presentations, Participation and Attendance................................. 20%
Abstract........................................................................................................ 10%
Annotated Bibliography.................................................................................. 20%
Draft of Research Paper................................................................................ 20%
Final Paper...................................................................................................... 30%

**Description of Weekly Presentations and Participation:** During class each week, students are responsible for presenting their group's assigned reading(s). This group presentation should be accompanied by visuals (e.g. powerpoint on a thumbdrive) that the group members collectively put together. To optimize the presentations and discussions, group members should meet on a weekly basis outside of the scheduled class to go over the reading(s) and to organize the visual presentation. In addition, once your group has presented, this does not mean that you are done for the day. Students must remain active participants in the class while other groups are presenting their materials. In other words, your participation grade is based on all activities conducted in class.

**Attendance Policy:** As this course meets only once a week, students are expected to attend every class. Attendance will be taken each week and students are allotted only 1 absence. Any absences thereafter will result in a lowering of the student's final participation/attendance grade by 10 points for each additional absence.

**Written Work:** Due dates for all written work (abstract, bibliography, draft of research paper, and final paper) are listed in the schedule. These must be physically handed in -- late work and/or emailed submissions will NOT be accepted under any circumstances.

**Abstract:** 350-450 word count. The abstract should succinctly state what the topic of your research paper will be for the class and how you plan to investigate it. Be sure to articulate what questions you will be trying to answer and their significance for the field. Examples of abstracts will be distributed and discussed in class at the appropriate time in the semester.

**Annotated Bibliography:** Midway through the semester, students will turn in an annotated bibliography. The bibliography should have a minimum of 10 scholarly sources (books and articles) that relate to the research topic. Online sources must be approved by me in advance and will not be counted as part of the 10 sources. Examples of an annotated bibliography will be distributed and discussed in class at the appropriate time.

**Draft and Final Research Paper:** Students will engage in independent research and writing on a topic of their choice that relates to this seminar. Any methodological or theoretical approach is welcome. The first draft of the paper (minimum 5 pages) is due on Wednesday, November 6th, and students will receive substantial feedback on both the content and the style of writing. Make sure to hold on to this draft as it must be turned in along with the final version of the paper. The final paper (10-12 pages) must incorporate my editorial suggestions and demonstrate substantial development from the earlier draft. The final paper is due on Wednesday, December 11th. Guidelines for both the draft and the final paper will be discussed at the appropriate time in the semester. Please also refer to the Grading Criteria described on the last page of this syllabus.
Americans with Disabilities Act (Disabilities Accommodation): Please notify me if you have a disability that requires accommodation. It is also required that you register with the UNT Office of Disability Accommodation, Student Union, Room 318. The College of Visual Arts and Design policy on accommodation is available upon request in the CVAD Dean's offices, Room 107. Further questions and problems on accommodation may be addressed to Associate Dean Eric Ligon, School Accommodation Liaison, Art Building, Student Advising, Room 111.

Student Behavior in the Classroom: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

Academic Dishonesty -- Plagiarism: It is very important that you understand what plagiarism is and recognize that it is a serious academic offense. When you use other people's ideas or other people's words without giving acknowledgement, this is plagiarism. According to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (www.unt.edu/csrr), "the term plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
(a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and/or
(b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials."

Plagiarism necessitates that I file an incident report to the appropriate authorities and this may result in your failing the assignment, failing the course, or being expelled from the University. Please consult the University's Code of Student Conduct or ask me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism and how you should give proper acknowledgement to your sources in your written work.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress: A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility. If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

Course Risk Factor: According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category 1 course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students in this class will be informed of any potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

Emergency Procedures: In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of
tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your professor and act accordingly.

**Schedule**

Please Note: The professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus if necessary. © 2013 Lisa N. Owen

**Aug 28: Introduction to the Course and Group Assignments**

**Sept 4: Divine Bodies; contact sheet due; discussion of potential paper topics and resources**


**Sept 11: Sensuous Bodies**

**G1 and G2** Vidya Dehejia, *The Body Adorned*, 75-98, On Reserve


**Sept 18: Ascetic and/or Horrific Bodies; discussion of paper abstract**

**G2:** Tamara Sears, "Encountering Ascetics On and Beyond the Indian Temple Wall," in Benjamin Fleming and Richard Mann eds., *History and Material Culture in Asian Religions* (forthcoming Dec 2013). On Blackboard


Sept 25: Royal and/or Devoted Bodies; abstract due in class


Oct 2: Concealed and/or Revealed Bodies; discussion of annotated bibliography


Oct 9: Erotic Bodies


Oct 16: Annotated bibliography due in class at 2pm; discussion of draft and final paper; guest speaker at 4pm (attendance required)
Oct 23: **Contested Bodies**


Oct 30: **National Bodies:** individual meetings assigned for either Nov 13 or Nov 20


**G3:** Geeti Sen, "Iconising the Nation: Political Agendas," in Geeti Sen ed., *India: A National Culture?*, 155-175. On Blackboard


Nov 6: Draft of paper due in class at 3:30; guest speaker at 4pm (attendance required)

Nov 13: Meetings with individual students (ART 210)

Nov 20: Meetings with individual students (ART 210)

Nov 27: Work on final paper

Dec 4: Last class; SETE and comments/questions regarding final papers

Dec 11: Papers due in my office (ART 210) at 2pm
Grading Criteria for the Research Paper:

**A** = Such a grade indicates that the student’s paper was thoroughly researched and written with clarity of thought. An ‘A’ paper means that there were little to no errors in grammar/spelling and that the introduction and conclusion were clear as was the development of the body of the paper. An ‘A’ paper presents a thesis supported or addressed through rigorous analyses, solid use of evidence, and employment of exceptional sources. An ‘A’ paper advances the state of scholarship on the chosen topic.

**B** = Such a grade indicates that the student was able to execute research and writing with diligence and forethought. A ‘B’ paper presents a clear thesis, good use of evidence, and utilizes significant academic sources. It differs from an ‘A’ paper in that it could have been more rigorous in its employment of sources, evidence, and/or analysis. A grade of ‘B’ also usually indicates that there were limited structural, spelling, or grammatical problems.

**C** = This is similar to the ‘B’ description, but the number of problems is more extensive. These may include significant grammatical or structural problems, adding irrelevant material or new material inappropriately, too many generalities, and/or relying on limited or non-specialized sources. ‘C’ papers often contain too many quoted passages and/or the thesis statement is not articulated clearly nor supported through analysis.

**D** = A grade of ‘D’ indicates that the student did a poor job in articulating a thesis and in conducting the necessary research to support the line of inquiry. A ‘D’ paper also usually contains numerous grammatical/structural problems that make it difficult to read and/or follow the argument. There are usually far too many generalities, a lack of analysis, and/or poor use of sources.

**F** = This either indicates that the assignment was not done or what was done was simply unacceptable for any number of reasons. This includes any indication of plagiarism, which may entail further academic penalty. See the description of plagiarism in this syllabus.
Contact Sheet

Please fill out the following and return it to me by Wednesday Sept 4

I _____________________________________________(print name) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, criteria for grading, attendance policy, scheduled dates for assignments, policy for written work, and the definition of plagiarism. I also understand the risk factor rating of 1 for this class. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

AEAH 4848: Art History Senior Seminar -- Representing the Body in South Asian Art

Risk Rating Category 1

_________________________________  ___________________________  __________
Student email address                  Signature                               Date