ARTH 4801.006 – Gender and the Body in Victorian Art & Design
Spring 2024, 3 credits
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM, ART 288

Professor Contact Information
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Office hours: Tuesdays, 12:30–1:30 PM & Thursdays, 5:00–6:00 PM

Course description
This course will explore the significance of the body, especially the gendered body, in nineteenth-century British art and design. Victorian painting, sculpture, decorative arts, fashion, graphic design, illustration, interiors, furniture, and other objects of design will be addressed through a consideration of different artists, designers, and movements, with a particular focus on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and Aestheticism. In addition to gender roles, the course will explore sexuality, love, morality, religion, science, race, and class.

Course structure & content
This class meets in person. Readings are from a variety of sources and will be posted on Canvas. Make sure you do your readings and required work before our class days. Readings will be supplemented by lectures, discussions (in-class and on Canvas discussion boards), and activities (in-class and on Canvas) throughout the semester. I have included a course schedule of topics and readings in this syllabus, but be sure to check your email and Canvas regularly for announcements, adjustments to the schedule, and assignments.

Course objectives
• Students will investigate a range of examples of Victorian art and design, including painting, sculpture, decorative arts, fashion, and illustration, and gain an understanding of art and design objects in relation to historical, cultural, and social developments.
• Students will reach an understanding of the ways in which the human body was represented and the relationship between gender and the body during the Victorian period.
• Students will engage in a cross-disciplinary analysis of the Victorian period, considering Victorian art and design in relation to literature, science, and religion.
• Students will apply the vocabulary and analytical skills needed to conduct research and present conclusions thoughtfully.
• Students will communicate with other students thoughtfully in verbal and written form.

Course disclaimer
Content in the arts and design can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. We might encounter examples of harmful stereotypes or expressions of cultural and racial superiority. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, it is not the college’s practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might
feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

**Technical assistance**
At UNT we have an IT Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Live Chat: https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330
Hours and Availability: Visit https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk for up-to-date hours and availability.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
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 Dean of Students 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 deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

**Rules of Engagement**
Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. These rules will be factored into your final participation grade. Here are some general guidelines:
• While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
• Treat your instructor and classmates with respect, even when their opinion differs from your own.
• Speak from personal experiences. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or another individual’s experiences.
• Use your critical thinking skills to respectfully challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.

**Student Support Services**
UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:
• Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
• Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
• UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
• UNT Psychiatric Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
• Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Other student support services offered by UNT include
• Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
• Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
• Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
• Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
• Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
• UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services
• Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
• Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
• UNT Libraries (https://library.unt.edu/)
• Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
• Math Lab (https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences
According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.
Survivor Advocacy
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at 940-565-2759.

Course Requirements & Grade Distribution
Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%
Essay 1: 15%
Essay 2: 15%
Midterm multiple choice quiz: 15%
Victorian salon group presentation: 10%
Final project: 25%

Attendance
Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. Your Attendance grade will be lowered by one full letter grade for more than 2 unexcused absences. An excused absence is granted if you are ill or have an urgent reason for being unable to attend class. Appropriate documentation is required (i.e. a doctor’s note or proof of a positive Covid test) unless I tell you otherwise. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so we can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Excessive tardiness will count as an absence (3 late arrivals=1 unexcused absence). Do not leave the class while it is in session unless you have an urgent reason.

Participation
It is required that each student come to class having completed the required reading and any assignments. You are also expected to participate in class discussions and any in-class activities that are assigned. Additionally, Canvas discussion board responses will factor into your Participation grade. There will be 10 discussion board posts over the course of the semester, and you must comment on at least 5 of the posts. Each comment should be at least 3 sentences. Failure to do so will result in your Participation grade being lowered by as much as one letter grade for each missing comment.
No cell phones shall be visible or audible in the classroom after class begins unless there is an emergency. If you are seen using a phone repeatedly during class without permission, it will have a negative impact on your Participation grade.

**Essays**
Your responses to essay questions are due on Canvas on Thurs., Feb. 22 and Thurs., April 11 (by 11:59 pm.) You will be provided with the questions 1 1/2 weeks in advance and are expected to write responses of at least 800 words and no more than 1500 words. A letter grade will be deducted for each day past the deadline if you are late. You will be provided with more detailed instructions on Canvas.

**Midterm multiple choice quiz**
Your midterm multiple choice quiz will be taken on Canvas during class time on Thurs., March 7. It will consist of 40 questions worth 2.5 points each. You will be allowed to consult notes, readings, and class slides, but you will not be allowed to collaborate with anyone else.

**Victorian salon group presentation**
You will deliver a short group presentation on a particular work of art or design that inspired you on Tues., April 30 or Thurs., May 2. (Groups and presentation days will be assigned.) The presentation days will take the form of a Victorian salon. During 19th century, salons were held in which guests would come together to engage in intellectual discussions and participate in cultural activities. The social gatherings provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and fostering of intellectual and artistic pursuits. You are encouraged to be creative with your group presentation. It can take the form of a poem, spoken word piece, debate, song, dance, short play, video essay, or something else!

**Final project**
You will have options for your final project, including a research paper (8–10 pages), creative writing project, virtual exhibition, art/design project, or podcast episode. I will provide you with more detailed instructions on Canvas, and your topic must be submitted for approval by Tues., April 16 at 11:59 PM. The assignment is due by Thurs., May 9 by 5:00 PM. A letter grade will be deducted from the final project grade for each day past the deadline if you are late.

**Grading**
A: 90% course average or above. Excellent work produced throughout the semester.
B: 80% course average or above. Good work produced throughout the semester.
C: 70% course average or above. Fair work produced throughout the semester.
D: 60% course average or above. Passing work produced throughout the semester.
F: Failure

**COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS** (subject to revision)

**WEEK 1: Tues., Jan. 16 – Syllabus review/Introduction to the course**
WEEK 1: Thurs., Jan. 18 – Overview of the Pre-Raphaelites

Required readings:
• Tim Barringer, “Introduction,” and Ch. 1, “Rebellion and Revivalism,” in Reading the Pre-Raphaelites (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1999), 7-19; 21–53.

Recommended readings:
• Tim Barringer, Ch. 2, “Truth to Nature,” in Reading the Pre-Raphaelites (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1999), 55-83.


Required readings (read all by Jan. 25):

Recommended readings:

WEEK 3: Tues., Jan. 30 – Subversive Femininity

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEKS 3–4: Thurs., Feb. 1 & Tues., Feb. 6 – Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Required readings (read all by Feb. 6):
• Chiedza Mhondoro, “Sensitivity and Possibility: Reading Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s The Beloved Through Fiction,” and Margaretta Frederick, “Troubling Women: Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s


Recommended readings:

**WEEK 4: Thurs., Feb. 8 – Edward Burne-Jones**

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

**WEEK 5: Tues., Feb. 13 – William Morris and the Kelmscott Press**

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 5: Thurs., Feb. 15 – William Morris and the Kelmscott Press (cont.)
Visit to view Special Collections materials (Room 443, 4th floor, Willis Library)
Note that you will not be in room 443 for the entire class period. Please see below for when you are scheduled to be there:
Group 1: Students with the last names Abadom–LaFrance: 11:00–11:40 AM
Group 2: Students with the last names Lovett–Zahan: 11:40 AM–12:20 PM
Since each group has a limited amount of time looking at the materials, it is important that you are on time!

WEEK 6: Tues., Feb. 20 – Victorian Illustration

Required readings:

WEEK 6: Thurs., Feb. 22 – Race and the Victorians
ESSAY 1 due by 11:59 PM!

Required readings:
• *The Colour of Anxiety: Race, Sexuality and Disorder in Victorian Sculpture*, Exhibition guide, Henry Moore Institute, 2022

Recommended readings:

WEEK 7: Tues., Feb. 27 – Medical/Anatomical Illustration

Required readings:

Recommended readings:
• Michael Sappol, “Mr. Joseph Maclise and the Epistemology of the Anatomical Closet,” British Art Studies 20: https://doi.org/10.17658/issn.2058-5462/issue-20/msappol

WEEKS 7–8: Thurs., Feb. 29 & Tues., March 5 – Albert Moore, James McNeill Whistler, and Aestheticism

Required readings (read all by March 5):
• Introduction to the V&A exhibition, “The Cult of Beauty”: https://www.vam.ac.uk/blog/creating-cult-beauty/video-introduction-aestheticism

Recommended readings:

WEEK 8: Thurs., March 7 – MIDTERM QUIZ!

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS ON TUES., MARCH 12 OR THURS., MARCH 14!
WEEK 10: Tues., March 19 & Thurs., March 21 – Queer Victorians

Required readings (read all by March 21):

WEEK 11: Tues., March 26 & Thurs., March 28 – Ornament, Objects, & The Interior

Required readings (read all by March 28):

Recommended readings:
• Owen Jones, Grammar of Ornament (London: Day and Son, 1856).

WEEK 12: Tues., April 2 – Scientific Connections: Meteorology, Consciousness, & Sensation

Required readings:
Recommended readings:

**WEEK 12: Thurs., April 4 – Scientific Connections: Darwin**

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

**WEEK 13: Tues., April 9 – Scientific Connections: Physiognomy and Phrenology**

Required readings:

Recommended readings:
• Mary Cowling, “The Urban Scene: Painters of the Crowd,” in *Victorian Figurative Painting: Domestic Life and the Contemporary Social Scene* (London: Andreas Papadakis, 2000), 89-119.

**WEEK 13: Thurs., April 11 – LIBRARY RESEARCH SESSION with Rebecca Barham!**
Meet in Room 130 at Willis Library.
ESSAY 2 due by 11:59 PM!
**WEEK 14: Tues., April 16 – Victorian Fashion**

Final Project topic must be submitted for approval by the end of today (11:59 pm)!

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

**WEEK 14: Thurs., April 18 – Victorian Fashion (cont.); Visit to the TFC study space**

You will visit the Texas Fashion Collection study space in the Art Building, **room 259**. Annette Becker, Director and Curator of the TFC, will meet us there. Note that you will not be in the study space for the entire class period. Please see below for when you are scheduled to be there:

**Group 1: Students with the last names Abadom–LaFrance: 11:00–11:40 AM**  
**Group 2: Students with the last names Lovett–Zahan: 11:40 AM–12:20 PM**

Since each group has a limited amount of time in the study space, it is important that you are on time!

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

**WEEK 15: Tues., April 23 – Death & Spiritualism**

Required readings:

**Recommended readings:**

**WEEK 15: Thurs., April 25 – Religion**

**Required readings:**

**Recommended readings:**

**WEEK 16: Tues., April 30 & Thurs., May 2 – VICTORIAN SALON**

Detailed instructions to follow.

**FINAL PROJECT DUE ON THURS., MAY 9 BY 5:00 PM!**

Detailed instructions to follow.