

"... it is a pleasing reflection that I shall stand amongst the first of the Artists that shall have led that Country to the Knowledge and cultivation of the fine Arts ... (which) will one Day shine with a luster not inferior to what they have done in Greece or Rome."

John Singleton Copley, c. 1775

ART 389A

AMERICAN ART

WEC F-09

Prof. Kristin M. Anderson

Lindell 225B: 612-330-1285

anderso3@augsborg.edu

Office: WEC Fridays, 5-5:45 p.m.

Graduation Level Skills: Speaking/Writing

REQUIRED TEXTS: Wayne Craven, *American Art: History and Culture*

Amy Tucker, *Visual Literacy: Writing About Art*

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The purpose of the course is to help you become acquainted with the history of American painting, sculpture, architecture, and folk arts. Lectures with slides, videos, readings, speaking and writing will serve as the means by which you become familiar with the material.

REQUIREMENTS: Thorough reading of Craven, as well as appropriate sections of *Visual Literacy*, is expected. Please see the class schedule for reading assignments. Attendance at class sessions is required. More than one absence from class sessions will result in the lowering of the final grade.

EVALUATION: There will be one test, covering the text and class material, given on December 4. It will include discussions and comparisons of significant works, attribution of an unknown image, term discussions and an essay. You may bring to the exam one 8 1/2 X 11 inch study sheet with whatever information you wish written on **one** side of it. These study sheets may be prepared in conjunction with other students, must be in your own handwriting, and must contain your signature. They may not be typewritten or word-processed. They may not be photocopies. They will be collected at the end of the exam. Sheets that do not conform to these rules will not be allowed. (Final exam: 150 points).

You will complete a major research project during the term, completed in stages and resulting in a final paper and a final speech. Ideally, the topic should focus on an object or building that you can study directly (that is, something in a local collection, part of the built environment of the Twin Cities, etc.), although you may negotiate for another topic if you choose.

Please remember that you are developing a thesis: you are posing and answering a question, making an argument, or demonstrating a point using evidence. The research should not culminate in a report on facts. For instance, that John Singleton Copley painted a portrait of Sarah Sargent Allen is not in dispute. Where and how it fits into his development as an artist, or whether it can be understood as a typical or unusual Copley portrait, might be avenues to investigate and argue. Keep in mind the questions "why?" and "so what?" as you choose your topic and form your thesis.

You should begin considering topics right away, looking at objects in local collections. A written statement of your topic and possible directions is due on September 25, giving you ample time to investigate and research during the term. (Topic statement: 25 points.)

By October 23, you will submit a preliminary bibliography and outline, indicating substantial and significant work to locate resources for your project as well as a growing sense of what you will do with your topic and these resources. In class on October 23, you will also give a brief (3-4 minute) presentation about your topic, your research and discoveries, and/or a challenge you have encountered. This brief speech makes the otherwise solitary work of research public, and it allows you to briefly share insights with your classmates that may be helpful to them in their own work. You may use only one image in this presentation, if you choose, and you should send me your image by Wednesday, October 21, so that I can put it into a single image presentation for the class. (Bibliography and outline: 25 points; brief oral presentation: 10 points; critiques of others' presentations: 10 points; written outline for presentation: 5 points.)

By November 20, you will submit a first version of your paper, which should include notes with citations and a bibliography. It should be a substantially complete version of your paper, and it will be returned to you with suggestions for the final revision, due on the last day of class. You should also submit a draft of your outline for the final speech, indicating how you plan to use the 10-15 minutes allotted to you on December 11. (You should not plan to read excerpts of your paper, but instead focus on something of particular interest within the scope of your research.) (Paper first version: 25 points; speech outline: 25 points.)

The final paper, including footnotes or endnotes, bibliography, and illustrations, is due on December 11. It should be submitted electronically, but you should submit *in class* your first version to demonstrate the improvements you have made. The final speeches will take place in class on December 11. You are encouraged to use images in your presentation. Powerpoint can be an effective image delivery tool, but be careful to avoid too much layout/format or word clutter. You may also choose to use ARTstor's offline image viewer for your presentation. (Final revision of the paper: 150 points; final speech: 50 points; final speech critiques: 15 points; final speech outline: 10 points.)

There will be no make-up speeches or tests, except when an acceptable written excuse is presented. An absence from the test or a speech must be excused ahead of time. The final grade will be determined on the basis of the average of the accumulated points (500 total possible). Final averages from 100 to 92 receive a 4.0, from 92 to 87 a 3.5, from 87 to 82 a 3.0, etc. You must complete all of the assignments to receive a 2.0/P in the course. Completing all of the assignments, however, does not *guarantee* a final grade of 2.0/P in the course.

September 11	Course introduction The Colonial Period	Craven 1-3
September 25	The Colonial Period The Federal Period Topic selection completed and uploaded in moodle	Craven 4-7 Craven 8-12
October 9	The Romantic Period	Craven 13-19
(October 21	Submit single image via email or moodle, if you wish, for presentation on Friday)	
October 23	The American Renaissance Bibliography and outline uploaded to moodle First brief presentation, in class, on your research	Craven 20-26
November 6	NO CLASS	
November 20	The Early Modern Period First version of paper uploaded to moodle Preliminary speech outline uploaded to moodle	Craven 27-32
December 4	The Post-Modern Period Course Exam	Craven 33-40
December 11	Final speeches Paper revision uploaded in moodle First version of paper handed in during class Speech outline handed in during class	