

ART 436.01E: History of Women and Art
LIBS 405.01E Gender and Visual Representation
Dr. Emily L. Newman
East Texas A&M University

Tues/Thurs 2:00-3:15, Fall 2025

Classroom: EDS 123

Email: emily.newman@etamu.edu

Office: Talbot Hall 203

For Office Hours, email to schedule an appointment (F2F or Zoom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Through the careful study of artworks and art historical texts, students will be engaged in an extended, historically-based examination of how issues of gender, including the role of women in artistic production, have shaped our cultural landscape. Through specific examples, ranging from an examination of the nude in classical art to identity politics of the past twenty years, students will encounter feminist issues by studying concrete examples of its application to the history of art. Students will read challenging, sophisticated and seminal texts and demonstrate their command of such texts in short responses and class discussions. They will gain a new perspective on the history of art, and on the role of gender in art history. Additionally, students will research a topic related to the class subject, using databases and other tools, and present that in a short paper. By the end of the course, the student will have a broad knowledge of art historical development and the role that women played as cultural producers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- discuss and explain historically significant works of art produced by women
- become acquainted with the characteristic features of the major styles and movements throughout art history
- learn to analyze the relationships among content, context, and style
- analyze and discuss significant theoretical and feminist texts
- develop research skills
- enhance visual literacy and critical thinking skills

ASSESSMENT

Students' ability to meet the course objectives and learning outcomes will be evaluated by written assignments, class participation, exams, and essay questions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Whitney Chadwick, *Women, Art and Society (World of Art)*, 6th ed (ISBN: 0500204566)
- Christine Redfern and Caro Caron, *Who is Ana Mendieta?* (ISBN: 1558617035)

Choose one of the following:

- Alexandra Lapierre, *Artemisia: A Novel* (ISBN: 0802138578)
- Gina Siciliano, *I Know What I Am: The Life and Times of Artemisia Gentileschi*, Fantagraphics, 2019. (ISBN: 1683962117)

***additional readings will be posted on D2L ***

WORKLOAD:

The rule of thumb for time required for course study and preparation each week for a face-to-face class or an online course during the spring and fall semesters is three times the number of credit hours (or 9 hours per week) for the course. You need to plan accordingly. If you find yourself unable to complete course requirements in a timely manner, refer to the University's withdrawal policy and the appropriate dates. Incomplete grades are only granted for extreme emergencies. Being "overloaded" either from other class assignments or job commitments are not considered to be emergency situations. For this class, you should expect an hour to an hour and a half of work for each class period (so around three hours a week). If you desire, you can work ahead and start the projects early, just remember to follow due dates and engage in conversation in discussion posts!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Engagement: Each person is expected to participate fully in class, by following the guidelines listed below.

- **Preparation:** reviewing readings and material before class
- **Focus:** avoiding distractions during in-person and online activities
- **Presence:** engaged and responsive during all activities
- **Asking Questions:** in class, out of class, online, offline
- **Listening:** hearing what others say, and also what they are not saying
- **Specificity:** referring to specific ideas from reading and discussions
- **Synthesizing:** making connections between reading and discussions

Attendance: Each student in this course is allowed no more than **three** unexcused absences. Each absence after this results in the lowering of the grade by 1/3 of a letter grade. When a student accrues **more than eight unexcused absences** the instructor has the right to drop the student from the course or to give them a failing grade. Unexcused absences require no explanation. For an absence to be considered excused, appropriate documentation must be presented. Excused absences are defined in The Student Guidebook and various university policies, but the policy employed in this class is confined to the following: (1) Participation in pre-approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University-related academic reasons; (2) Verifiable legal proceedings; (3) Documented cases of illness, injury, or emergencies. **All such excuses must be shown to the instructor in original, written, documentary form within 7 days of the absence(s) together with a photocopy for the instructor's records.** (Please understand that this copy is a student's only record of an absence.) In lieu of documentation, absences become unexcused and are counted as such.

Discussion: Each student will write numerous times to the discussion page for the class. There will be clear class prompts, with word counts for you to follow. Discussions are due Tuesdays and Thursdays prior to the start of class. No late posts or make-up posts will be allowed.

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Exams: Throughout the course, you will have two exams (the midterm and the final exam). They will be composed of slide identifications (where you must identify the artist/title/date/style of the work) short answers, and essay questions. These exams will NOT be cumulative, and will only cover the material immediately preceding that exam.

Research Project: There will be one research assignment, where you will be asked to read a biography on a prominent women artist. After completing the book, you will research the same artist and compare the results. More information will be distributed.

Grade Breakdown:

15% Discussion Posts
15% Writing Assignments
25% Research Project
18% Exam 1
22% Exam 2
5% Reflection Paper

Grade Scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

CLASS DISCUSSION:

Each person will bring their own experiences to this class and should feel comfortable expressing their opinions and vulnerabilities. We will look at a wide array of media and examples of visual culture, some of which might include nudity, intense language, violence, etc. Each person will bring their own experiences to the art and should feel comfortable expressing their opinions and vulnerabilities. The classroom is a safe environment, and each student should behave with integrity and treat their peers with respect.

HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment must be uploaded on time. For each class day late, the grade will be deducted one letter grade. **Assignments will NOT be accepted past the End Date.**

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Statement on Student Behavior:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenet of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If the instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42 – 46 of the East Texas A&M University Student guidebook's Codes of Conduct for details.

In-Class Guidelines:

- **Prohibited - Cell Phones/Music Players:** Please keep these devices off while class is in session. It is disrespectful to your classmates. No cell phones are allowed during exam sessions. If you need to check the time, consult the clock in the classroom. Repeated use of these devices will result in being asked to leave. If there is an emergency and you need access to your phone, please silence it and alert the professor.
- **Prohibited - Computers and tablets.** Studies have shown that students learn better taking notes by hand. If you need a computer for ADA purposes, please just let the professor know.
- **Remove headphones** during class (unless needed for ADA reasons)
- **Do not sleep** during class. If you do, you will be marked as absent during that class session.
- **Remove sunglasses** during class (unless needed for ADA or health reasons).
- **Avoid disruptive or distracting behavior.** Texting, conversing with other students during class, loud eating, etc. Be kind to your fellow classmates.
- **Do not repeatedly enter or exit the classroom.** Please be on time to class. Not only is disruptive to the class environment, but you could miss important class announcements. This is a short class, so there should be no need to come in and out throughout the class period. Note, repeated tardiness will count with your absences, and could result in a lower grade.

Academic Dishonesty: Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. There is **no tolerance** for any kind of academic dishonesty in this course. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, and misrepresenting absences. Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, expulsion from class and/or the University, and a failing grade.

It is the student's responsibility to:

1. research and write their own papers
2. give proper credit through documentation when using words or ideas of others
3. rely on their own knowledge when taking tests
4. refuse to give another student the opportunity to be dishonest

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Artificial Intelligence (AI): The use of ChatGPT, Copilot, or any other AI platform or tool to generate ideas, write content, or produce any material is strictly prohibited in this course.

This class is designed to develop your writing skills, and if you are using AI, you are not writing or learning. This is because the use of AI diminishes opportunities to learn from our experiences and from each other, to play with our creative freedoms, to problem-solve, and to contribute our ideas in authentic ways. In a nutshell, college is a place for learning, and this AI simply cannot do that learning for us.

Any work written, developed, created, or inspired by generative artificial intelligence does not lend itself to our learning goals and is a breach of ethical engagement and our academic integrity policy. Using AI opens up academic honesty issues, both because it raises the question if the work is "your" work, and also because tools like ChatGPT rely on taking material from uncredited scholars and writers. **If discovered that you have used any type of AI for your work, you will face negative consequences, which will include failing the assignment and potentially failing the course and facing discipline from the university.**

Please be cautious using tools like Grammarly, which can be very helpful with spell check and grammar help but should be avoided when they generate content.

TURNITIN

East Texas A&M University uses Turnitin software to help students avoid plagiarism and cheating. Turnitin is a 'text-matching' software which is designed to educate students regarding appropriate citation and referencing techniques. Turnitin is also used to provide East Texas A&M University with confidence in the academic integrity of students work. Turnitin does this by comparing a student submission against an archive of Internet documents, Internet data, a repository of previously submitted papers, and subscription repository of periodicals, journals, and publications. Turnitin then creates an 'Originality Report' which can be viewed by both lecturers and students, which identifies where the text within a student submission has matched another source.

EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ADA ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University, Waters Library, Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150, Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

After contacting the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of what accommodations are needed **IN ADVANCE** of when they are needed (for example, if testing accommodations are necessary, please inform the instructor with appropriate documentation at LEAST one week before the test date).

EMAIL POLICY:

Email is the preferred form of communication, with a general response time of 24 hours during the week (do not expect replies over the weekend). For all emails sent, please **include full name, student ID, and the class** that you are attending. Do not send emails to myself and other professors at once, as each professor has different issues to address. You are allotted three absences for this course; plan accordingly and there is no need to contact me about unexcused absences that are incorporated into this allowance. For excused absences, you need to bring in a hard copy of appropriate documentation of your absence.

GRADE POLICY:

If you have concerns regarding a grade, email me **within one week of receiving the assignment back** clearly explaining why you think the assignment was addressed incorrectly. After the email is received, we will then set up an appointment to discuss the concern. Make-up exams will be administered **only** in instances of excused absences (and acceptable documentation) and may not be designed in the same format as the regularly-scheduled exam. When an excused absence causes a student to miss an exam, it is the student's responsibility to inform--or to have someone else notify--the instructor within **4 days** of the exam. If permitted, these exams **must** be made up within two weeks of the scheduled date, at a time and place determined by the professor.

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROGRAMS NEEDED

At a minimum, you must have access to and be able to use Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, the university provides access here:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/facultystaffservices/academictechnology/documents/Office-365-Students.pdf>

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Women and Art Schedule*

8/26 - Introduction

8/28 - Influence of Venus on Imagery of Women

Read: Linda Nochlin, "Why Have there Been No Great Women Artists?" in *Woman in Sexist Society: Studies in Power and Powerlessness*, ed. Vivian Gornick and Barbara K. Moran. New York: Basic Books, 1971.

9/2 - Woman of the Middle Ages – W.A.S. – Chapter 1

Selfie Project Due

9/4 - Renaissance Portraiture – W.A.S. – Chapter 2 & 3

9/9- Baroque Paintings and 17th Century Genre Painting– W.A.S. – Chapter 3 & 4

9/11 - Begin screening of *Artemisia* (dir. by Agnès Merlet, 1998, 98 minutes)

Artemisia Book Response Due

9/16 – Finish screening of *Artemisia* (dir. by Agnès Merlet, 1997, 98 minutes)

9/18 – Judith Leyster / Motherhood in the 18th Century - W.A.S. – Chapter 4 & 5

Read: Carol Duncan, "Happy Mothers and Other New Ideas in Eighteenth Century French Art," *Art Bulletin* 55, no. 4 (Dec. 1973): 570-583.

9/23 – Women's Building and Early Asian Artists

9/25 – 19th Genre Painting - W.A.S. – Chapter 6 & 7

Read: James M. Saslow, "'Disagreeably Hidden': Construction and Constriction of the Lesbian Body in Rosa Bonheur's Horse Fair," in *The Expanding Discourse*, ed. Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.

9/30 – 19th C Sculpture – W.A.S. – Chapter 7 & 8

10/2 – Impressionism – W.A.S. – Chapter 8

Read: Griselda Pollock, "Modernity and the Spaces of Femininity," in *The Expanding Discourse*, ed. Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard. New York: Harper Collins, 1992

10/7 - 19th Century Photography

10/9 – EXAM #1

*subject to change

W.A.S. = Women, Art, and Society

- 10/14 – Modernist Representation of the Female Body– W.A.S. – Chapter 10
- 10/16 – Questioning Femininity in the Early 20th Century W.A.S. – Chapter 9 & 10
Read: Joan Riviere, “Womanliness as Masquerade” *International Journal of Psychoanalysis (IJPA)* 10 (1929).
- 10/21 - Photography as Document W.A.S. – Chapter 10
Read: Jordan Reznick, “Through the Guillotine Mirror: Claude Cahun’s Theory of Trans against the Void,” *Art Journal* 81, no. 3 (2022) 53-69
- 10/23 - Postwar Abstractions W.A.S. – Chapter 11
- 10/28 - Challenging the Patriarchy – W.A.S. – Chapter 12
Read: Dalila Scruggs, “Activism in Exile,” *American Art* 32, no. 3 (2018): 2-21.
- 10/30 – Rethinking Sculpture W.A.S. – Chapter 12 & 13
- 11/4 – no class in person
Read: Anna Chave, “Eva Hesse: A Girl Being A Sculpture” in *Eva Hesse: A Retrospective* New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery, 1992: 99-117.
 Anne M. Wagner, “Another Hesse” *October* 69 (Summer 1994): 49-84.
 Anna Chave, “*Response to “Another Hesse”+ *October* 71 (Winter 1995): 146-8.
- 11/6 – no class in person
Bechdel / DuVernay Movie Review
- 11/11 – Feminist Art – W.A.S. – Chapter 12
Read: Christine Redfern and Caro Caron. *Who is Ana Mendieta?* New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2011.
- 11/13 – Absences in Feminist Art – W.A.S. – Chapter 13
Read: Adrian Piper, “The Triple Negation of Colored Women Artists,” in *Next Generation: Southern Black Aesthetic*, 15-22. Winston-Salem, NC: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 1990.
- 11/18 - 80s and 90s – W.A.S. – Chapter 14 & 15
Watch: *!Women Art Revolution!* (dir. Lynn Hershman-Leeson, 2010, 83 min.)
- 11/20 - EXAM #2
- 11/25 – No class in person
Book Review
- 11/27 – No class - Thanksgiving
- 12/2 – Research Paper Draft Due
- 12/4 – TBA
- 12/9 – Research Paper Due
 Reflection Paper Due
- *subject to change
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