

SYLLABUS
Graduate Seminar in 18th Century Art

BECOMING A WOMAN IN THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Prof. Melissa Hyde

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Office hours: BY APPOINTMENT: Tues. 1:00-1:45; Wed. 1:00-2:45

Seminar Description

This seminar is designed to run in conjunction with the exhibition of eighteenth-century French art, guest curated by Prof. Melissa Hyde. Like the exhibition, the seminar will explore themes that in the eighteenth century circulated around the so-called Woman Question, which was essentially an ongoing quarrel about the nature and social role of women (or rather, Woman, as a category). The Woman Question was at the heart of some of the most pressing cultural, philosophical, political, and social debates of the great intellectual movement known as the Enlightenment. A central theme for this class is how these debates shaped the representations and experiences of women of different classes and conditions. We will be considering how artists explored all sides of this debate.

Further questions to be considered: what were the cultural definitions of ‘woman’ at the time; what did it mean to be a woman in France, legally, socially, scientifically; what were the perennial issues and questions that shaped conceptions of women; how were their social roles and ideals defined; and how did these conceptions affect women’s lives? We will give particular consideration to historical contexts, conceptions of gender, and cultural ideals that conditioned women’s experiences.

Course Objectives

To become conversant with the terms of the debates outlined above. To gain familiarity with a range of eighteenth-century French art styles and artists. There will be a strong emphasis in this seminar on critical reading and discussion of issues/concepts presented in assigned readings, on close examination of images, and on research and writing of final papers/projects.

Required Readings & Reserves (Electronic and otherwise)

Most of the assigned readings will be available on-line via electronic reserve (ARES) <https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/> Some of them are on JSTOR and are accessible through the UF library catalogue as well ARES (Access ARES and JSTOR from the [AFA website](#). You must be logged on through remote log on, VPN or from campus to access these sites. Let me know if you need instructions for remote log on.) Readings not available on ARES will be on the e-learning site for the class, or in a shared DROPBOX file.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS ACCESSING THE READINGS LET ME KNOW ASAP.

Non-electronic sources will either be on standard reserve or will have to be scanned. I will supply the master copies for those. A few readings will be in a shared DROPBOX file.

Useful Reference Texts in Art and Architecture Library & Other Websites

[AFA website](#) has links to bibliographic tools like the Bibliography of the History of Art (BHA), WorldCat, ArticleFirst & reference works like the *Grove Dictionary of Art*, as well as full-text on-line sources (**JSTOR**)

Links to important visual databases:

[Atlas - works on display in the Louvre](#)

[Joconde - works in the French national museums](#)

[Reunion des musees nationaux \(RMN\) image archive](#)

[ArtCyclopedia](#)

ArtStor (available through AFA website)

Format and Requirements:

Basic Requirements

Attendance at all class meetings and class-related events — *including the 2-day symposium, "Thinking Women," that will take place at the Harn in October*, completion of weekly readings; active participation in class discussion, small group-led class discussion, a short gallery presentation, a research paper and a 20 minute conference-style oral presentation.

Specifics

- Beginning with the second class meeting, most of the semester will be organized around discussions of selected images and assigned readings.
- Each member of the seminar will do a short (10 min.) gallery talk on a work of art in *Becoming a Woman*.
- Each week two or three members of the seminar will lead class discussion on assigned readings for that week. Readings will include at least one article chosen by the group on a topic to be agreed upon with me.
- The last three weeks of class meetings will consist of each student giving a polished, 20 minute conference-style presentation of their research.

Classroom Demeanor

Each member of the seminar is expected to read carefully all the assigned essays for a given class meeting and to come prepared to comment and ask questions. Close, informed discussion of the texts and images is a necessity for the success of the seminar; we all bear a responsibility in keeping up with the reading and engaging one another in ideas and debate. Passive reception of information is not enough; active exploration of ideas is essential!

Please do not bring anything to eat that is loud or fragrant.

Attendance

Our time together is precious and limited, therefore attendance at every class session is required. Early departures from class count as an ABSENCE. After one unexcused absence I reserve the right to drop your final grade for every absence. Any student with three or more unexcused absences will automatically receive a “C” or lower for a final grade.

Grading:

- Class Participation 20%
(includes small group led class discussion)
- Short gallery presentation 10%
- Topic submission
w/Outline & Bibliography 10%
- Oral Presentation 20%
- Research Paper 40%

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Other necessary information

1. Announcements about the course—any change in an assignment, scheduling, etc.—will be posted via e-mail. Please get into the habit of checking for messages the morning of class to be sure there hasn't been a change of plans.
2. You must complete all course requirements in order to pass the course.
3. Though you should feel free to see me if you are experiencing undue stress or other personal issues, please be aware that there are counseling services available on campus:

University Counseling Services/ Counseling Center
301 Peabody Hall
P.O. Box 114100, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100
Phone: 352-392-1575
Web: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>

4. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> . Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>
5. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing the appropriate

documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

6. Academic Honesty: As a University of Florida student, your performance is governed by the UF Honor Code. The Honor Code requires Florida students to neither give nor receive unauthorized aid in completing all assignments. Violations include cheating, plagiarism, bribery, and misrepresentation, all defined in detail [here](#).

Keep in mind that plagiarism is a serious violation of the student academic honor code. University policy recommends that, at a *minimum*, instructors should impose a course grade penalty and report any incident of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students. It is plagiarism if you present the ideas or words of someone else as your own. You are responsible for understanding the University's definitions of plagiarism and academic dishonesty. See the [Student Honor Code](#). Ask me if you have any questions!!

Critical Dates

Sept. 26	Research Day -- No class meeting
Oct. 3	Individual meetings with me this week to discuss paper topics
Oct. 10	Topic submissions with outline and bibliography due
Oct. 17	Class Meets at Harn
Oct. 20-22	Thinking Women Symposium
Oct. 24	Class Meets at Harn
Oct 24 or 25	“The Other Mozart” (Philips Center performance)
Nov. 7	First Drafts of Papers Due: No Class Meeting
Nov. 14	Presentations
Nov. 21	No class meeting
Nov. 28	Presentations
Dec. 5	Presentations
Dec. 13	Revised Papers Due by 5 pm