

# Visual and Cultural Studies

Spring 2008

## FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Write a **critical** analysis of an object—painting, sculpture, photo, film still, building, or public space. Use the material you find relevant, appropriate, and useful from the **second** half of the course.

These options leave room for you to formulate your own approach. The danger here is that you could easily drift into a relatively unfocused discussion if you do not **define your thesis** and **how you intend to argue for it** at the start of your paper.

Note also that your task is to produce a critical analysis, not a research paper. There is no need to do a lot of additional outside reading; in fact, additional reading may very well be a distraction or opportunity for avoiding the hard work of articulating your own ideas and arguing for your position. You have sufficient material on our syllabus and in the discussion blog for writing an excellent paper. I'm more interested in your analysis and reasoning than I am in the work of others. But be sure that the claims you make are backed up with evidence and compelling reasons for accepting those claims.

**Be sure to review the “Guidelines for Writing Critical Analyses of Visual Objects” before beginning work on your essay.**

**You are responsible for all of the material in this handout and will be evaluated according to the criteria discussed in it.** It is essential that you read it carefully. The document is available under “Study Guides” in Blackboard and under “Resources” on the blog.

The final paper should be 8-10 pages in length.

It is due by **noon, Monday, 12 May 08** in the **Digital Dropbox** in Blackboard. If your exam is submitted after the deadline, you'll be marked down one letter grade for each day that it's late.

Be sure to include an **image** of the object you're writing about.

You will be evaluated on the **form and content** of your paper, so pay close attention to both appearance and grammar. All papers must be **double-spaced** with **one-inch margins**, and appropriate endnotes or footnotes. If you need additional instructions or guidelines, see me.

### Statement on Academic Honesty

It is expected that all work submitted for a grade in this course reflects the work of the student submitting it. If you borrow an idea from someone else, you must cite the source, even if it is based on a conversation or correspondence. Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. Any student who does not fully understand the standards of academic honesty should speak to me in advance of submitting coursework.