

ART 109 HISTORY OF MODERN ART THEMATIC RESEARCH PAPER

The thematic research paper is a minimum of **SIX** double-spaced typed pages (not including bibliography). The paper must be a **thematic analysis of works of art produced during the Modern period (late 18th through early 20th century)**. Students must demonstrate knowledge of the particular work of the artist, period, style and subject matter selected as it relates to your topic. The paper should be a critical analysis of the works that represent different cultures (compare/contrast paper), but an informational paper is also acceptable but you will not receive the same grade as a critical paper. A bibliography of a **MINIMUM** of 3 sources should be at the end of your paper. **Only 1 of these sources can be from the Internet (this does not include reliable internet sources (museums, etc.) or online books and journals.** The remaining sources must be books or journal articles from a library (**the textbook cannot be used as one of your sources**). **REFER TO THE RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK A Short Guide to Writing About Art (Sylvan Barnet) to help format the essay (also on reserve in library).**

The paper must be developed from your in-class presentation.

A thematic research paper entails choosing a particular theme that appears within a particular style, time period, within an artist's work or region, etc. Sample themes are:

ALLEGORY
COLOR
EMOTION (feeling, mood, etc.)
GENDER (MASCULINITY, FEMININITY, SEXUALITY IDENTITY)
ICONOGRAPHY/SYMBOLISM (various themes within this theme)
IDENTITY
NATURE
OBJECTIFICATION OF WOMEN
ORIENTALISM
PATRON (BUYER)
POLITICS
PORTRAITS
POWER
PROPAGANDA
RACE
RELIGION
SELF-POTRAITS
SEXUALITY
SPIRITUALITY
SYMBOLIC ARCHITECTURE
TRAGEDY
WAR

Paper due dates:

Paper topics due (if you haven't presented) October 23nd
Early hand in for review November 27th (I will read it over and return it to you with comments)
Final paper due December 11th

SEE BACK SIDE

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to recommended text "Short Guide To Writing About Art" for sample research papers.
2. **Start research early.** Begin looking in the library and online for books related to your artist. If you cannot find a book in the library you can request it through interlibrary loan (ask librarian).

Research options:

- Library on-line catalogue
 - <http://sdmesa.libguides.com/art> (Mesa College Website designed for Art Research)
 - Interlibrary Loan (if the library doesn't have a particular book you can request it from another library)
 - Public Libraries (San Diego State University and UCSD have extensive art sections)
 - Internet. If you use the Internet for information you must cite the information in the proper format (check citation handbooks - MLA, Chicago Manual of Style etc.). The most reliable information comes from academic sites (i.e. .edu), museums, galleries, or institutions that focus on a particular subject.
3. Compile information. Read your articles and books. Based on your readings choose 2 to 3 art pieces to discuss. Remember to read, observe and then think about the art object in relation to the readings. Read *A Short Guide to Writing about Art* for tips on writing about art (in library or available in bookstore).
 4. Writing the paper. The paper should be a **critical analysis** of the work, but an informational paper is also acceptable. When you begin writing the paper make sure you state your **thesis** or point in the first paragraph. Begin with a brief outline of the background information (**historical, cultural, religious**) on the artist/culture you chose (the entire paper should not be biographical or purely an informative paper). The main body of the paper should be a discussion of the works of art you chose (2-3 is good but it depends on your theme and the depth of your analysis). A discussion of the **formal elements, content/meaning, and background factors is important, including the critical analysis from your sources that relate to you theme.** You should also include a proper conclusion to the paper, summarizing the main points of the paper, restating key points about the artist/culture and the work(s) discussed.

Paper formatting:

- 1 inch margins
- 12pt font (times new roman)
- Double Spaced
- If images are imbedded into document **text** must still equal 6 pages (this is a good length to fully develop an analysis of a theme in relation to works of art)

Once the paper is completed, set it aside for a day and reread the paper for any structural or spelling errors (remember you can turn the paper in early for comments and suggestions). The final paper should include:

1. **Research paper (6 pages of text does not include images) (Name in upper left hand corner with class number)**
2. **Bibliography (at least one source must be a printed text from the library)**
3. **Photocopies of the works of art discussed with titled and numbered (you may have to upload them separately)**
4. **Submit your paper on BLACKBOARD (your paper will go through a plagiarism check so make sure you have cited all your sources.**

SEE BACK SIDE