GEND20006 Sexing the Canvas: Art and Gender

Credit Points: 12.5

Level: 2 (Undergraduate)

Dates & Locations: 2016, Parkville
This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Parkville - Taught on campus.

Time Commitment: Contact Hours: 30 hours: a 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week. Total Time Commitment: Total expected time commitment is 170 hours across the semester, including class time.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Recommended Background Knowledge: None

Non Allowed Subjects: None

Core Participation Requirements: For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Overview, Objectives, Assessment and Generic Skills sections of this entry. It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact on meeting the requirements of this subject are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and the Disability Liaison Unit: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/

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Subject Overview: What do pictures want in relation to sex and sexuality? How is art gendered? How do painters use the materiality of oil on canvas to make gendered critiques of the history of art and its cultures? Structured around the rich collections of the National gallery of Victoria, each class will focus upon a specific work considering what insights a gendered analysis of it can provide. Lectures will be delivered in front of the paintings in situ in the gallery. Curatorial and expert academic staff from the NGV and the University of Melbourne, as well as international experts from outside of Victoria, will provide the lectures which will address a range of works drawn from the 18th century to the present. We will consider how gender, sex and sexuality impact on both the production and the reception of art and how artists utilise sexual codes at specific historical moments. Themes surrounding discourse, equality, ideology, and protest, will be addressed. We will consider how curatorial practises reinforce sexual difference through considering the artworks currently on display and how these produce meaning when they are taken as an aggregate in the context of an exhibition. We will study how works are conceptually framed by the information that the gallery provides about them through audio-guides, catalogue entries, hanging, and labelling. The subject will introduce you to key ideas from a number of thinkers including Judith Butler, Barbara Creed, Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray, Michele Foucault, W.J.T.Mitchell, Nicholas Chare, Svietlana Alpers, Michael Baxandall, Lynda Nead, Fred Orton, Griselda Pollock, carol Duncan and Lisa Tickner.

Learning Outcomes: On completion of the subject students should have:
- an understanding of key terms from gender-related theories of art history and museology;
- the ability to demonstrate various ways in which ideas about gender theory can productively be employed in theorizing curatorial practices;
the skills and confidence to take the initiative in relating theoretical ideas covered in the subject to the display of art and visual cultures;
# learnt how to organize material into coherent and convincing arguments in their written work;
# the ability to foster close reading skills in relation to both texts and images.

**Assessment:**
A tutorial presentation equivalent to 1500 words 40% (done during the semester), a 2500 words essay 60% (due in the examination period). This subject has a minimum hurdle requirement of 80% attendance and regular participation in tutorials. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per day.

**Prescribed Texts:**
A Subject Reader will be available.

**Breadth Options:**
This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:

# [Bachelor of Environments](https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/B-ENVS)

You should visit [learn more about breadth subjects](http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.

**Fees Information:**
Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees

**Generic Skills:**
Students who successfully complete this subject will:

# learn to be skilled in critical thinking and analysis;
# cultivate oral and written communication skills;
# develop an understanding of cultural and social contexts;
# become skilled at managing time and resources effectively.

**Related Majors/Minors/ Specialisations:**
Art History
Art History Major
Gender Studies
Graduate Certificate in Arts - Gender Studies
Graduate Diploma in Arts - Gender Studies