

**ARTH 2101-D230 Healing the Body: The Visual Culture of Medicine
FALL 2015**

**Writing Assignment #1:
Formal Analysis**

Due date: Tuesday, September 29, by 2:30 pm. Please submit on SafeAssign on Blackboard before class

This assignment gives you the opportunity to practice one of the basic methods of art history.

Instructions:

1. Choose an image from the list below, find it on the internet, and study the image carefully
2. Write a well-composed essay of minimum 500 words (approx. 2 pages) that describes the work of art, discussing its stylistic features and expressive qualities
Your essay should:
 - a. Assess the special character of the painting by examining its formal qualities (ie, line, color, space, light, composition, etc.)
 - b. Consider how the painting evokes a response from you and use details to support your analysis
 - c. At the end of your formal analysis, devote a paragraph to your thoughts on what medical issue this image might address and explain why
 - i. The term “medical issue” is intentionally broad. You may do some internet research to come up with ideas on what medical issue your painting may address, but do not include a lengthy account of a specific medical issue rather focus on how the visual elements of your image may evoke it
3. Your essay should be typed, double-spaced, and 12-point type. Please check spelling and grammar before you turn in the assignment.

Choose **one** of the following paintings and find an image of the artwork on the internet. I have provided locations to help you find the correct work of art.

Domenico Ghirlandaio, *Old Man with His Grandson*, Louvre, Paris, c.1490
Andrea Mantegna, *Dead Christ*, Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan, c.1500
Caravaggio, *Sick Bacchus*, Galleria Borghese, Rome c.1593
Rembrandt, *Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp*, Mauritshuis, The Hague, 1632
Gustav Courbet, *Woman with a Parrot*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC, 1866
Van Gogh, *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear*, Courtauld Institute of Art, London c.1889
Frida Kahlo, *The Broken Column*, Museo Delores Olmedo, Mexico City, 1944

(You are welcome to work on another image **but you must discuss it with me first.**)

Papers are submitted through **SafeAssign**. This program compares your text to other written sources available through google as well as an ever-growing database of student papers. Please do not copy and paste from other sources nor use extensive quotes. You will receive a 0 if the matching rate exceeds 40%.

Late papers will be marked down half a letter grade per day (weekends included).

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM.

To “plagiarize” is defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as:

Take and use as one’s own (the thoughts, writings, inventions, etc., of another person); copy

(literary works, ideas, etc.) improperly or without acknowledgment; pass off the thoughts, work, etc., of (another person) as one's own. [Lesley Brown, ed., *The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, 2 vols. (Oxford: 1993), 2:2231]

If you do additional research for the essay, you must cite all sources for your work, not just books and articles but also internet and non-traditional media sources. If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me in class, in office hours or via e-mail.