Course Description:

This seminar will introduce students to the visual culture of eighteenth-century France and familiarize them with current issues in the field. We will read classic studies as well as new scholarship, surveying both eighteenth-century French art production and recent art historical approaches. Readings will be supplemented by visits to the Kimbell Museum and the Dallas Museum of Art. Themes to be addressed include: the history of art institutions and markets, public and private modes of viewing, the hierarchy of genres, the careers of major artists, representation and gender, French participation in the global circulation of objects and styles, domestic space and the decorative arts, and luxury consumption and the history of dress.