

Spring 2007 Course Offering in Humanities

HUM 300

Humanistic Perspectives

MWF 1:00-1:50

Topic: **“Literature, the Arts, and Pornography”**

This course will explore the questions raised by the multi-disciplinary discussion of what constitutes the pornographic and how (and if) it should be regulated. Questions we will address include:

- ∩ How can we define pornography? How do we differentiate pornography from serious art?
- ∩ Is pornography a genre (or type of art/literature) with its own history and, if so, how do we write that history? Or is, as some theorists think, pornography merely a way of reading texts?
- ∩ What are the laws concerning pornography and how do they respond to and/or fail to respond to the problems associated with the pornographic and its impact on Western culture?
- ∩ How historically has pornography been treated? Specifically, how has the pornographic been codified in British literature, art, and society?
- ∩ How does the pornographic effect our understanding of sexuality? Gender? What constitutes high literature and high art?

We will take both a theoretical and a practical look at these questions. Our examination will be enacted through the various lenses that we have deemed humanities, including the visual arts, literature, literary criticism, history, and performance theory.

*If you have any questions or desire a reading list for this course, please contact Dr. Mark K. Fulk (English Department), Bishop 232, email: [fulkmk@buffalostate.edu](mailto:fulkmk@buffalostate.edu)*