

northwestern university  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year

Spring 2019

Course Number

ART-HIST 395

Day/Time

F 2-5

Instructor

McKee

Course Title

COSI Undergraduate Seminar: Impressions Otherwise: Colonialism and the Environment in Late-Nineteenth-Century French Art (on-site at the Art Institute of Chicago)

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

300-level Modern-Contemporary distribution requirement OR 390/395 requirement//Area VI



In our epoch of the Anthropocene-when climate change has been deemed irreversible and its effects command more attention-looking to the roots of this crisis with industrialism in the late-nineteenth century reveals the interwoven colonial and environmental conditions that are at the heart of our contemporary moment. This seminar will teach the history of French art during the late nineteenth century-

encompassing the artistic movements of Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and Art Nouveau-through the lenses of the environment and colonialism. Conducted at the Art Institute of Chicago, this course is a unique opportunity for students to develop the analytical skills of visual analysis first-hand in the museum collection, to apply these skills to theoretical paradigms, and to gain exposure to museum practices more generally.

Image: Francisco Oller, *Still Life with Coconuts*, c. 1893, oil on canvas, Private Collection, New Jersey

Required Textbooks

Assessments