

northwestern university
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year

Spring 2019

Course Number

ART-HIST 450 / 390

Day/Time

W 2-5

Instructor

Clayson

Course Title

Studies in 19th Century Art: World's Fairs



The seminar will study the global rise and proliferation of World's Fairs in the modern era: high profile political, aesthetic, technological, spatial, scientific, social, and cultural events in many key world cities. We will mine their impact on habits of display, consumption, visual and literary representation, and travel during the era of High Capitalism. The seminar will focus in upon specific fairs starting with the foundational 1851 *Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations* (in Hyde Park, London) through to the 1937 *Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques dans la Vie Moderne* (in Paris). The French capital hosted the lion's share of World Expositions in this period, but fairs were mounted in cities in the USA, England, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Italy, and Spain as well.

Advanced undergraduates as well as Ph.D. students may enroll.

Image: Maurice Garin, *The Eiffel Tower Ablaze, The Evening of the Inauguration of the Exposition*, May 6, 1889, photograph, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Required Textbooks

All of the readings will be posted as pdfs on Canvas.

Assessments

Regular contribution to class discussion, the preparation of a discussion script, and the pursuit of an individual research project commensurate with each student's interests and abilities.