

**VMFA Undergraduate Exhibition Senior Seminar**  
***The French Horse from Géricault to Picasso***  
**Course Proposal for Seminar to be held FALL 2015**

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is pleased to announce its first intercollegiate undergraduate exhibition course—*The French Horse from Géricault to Picasso*—to be held at VMFA during the Fall 2015 academic term. In this seminar, ten qualified undergraduate students from across central Virginia will research and develop together an exhibition that explores the central role of the horse in nineteenth-century French artworks from the VMFA and Paul Mellon collections. Upon completing this course, students will possess broad understanding of French 19<sup>th</sup>-century art from Romanticism to Modernism and have insights into exhibition planning and implementation.

VMFA is proud to partner with the University of Richmond Museums on this pilot collaborative educational and exhibition project., which will be presented at University of Richmond Museums in early 2016 (additional statewide museum venues to be determined).

The seminar will be team-taught by Jeffrey Allison (Paul Mellon Educator, VMFA), Richard Waller (Executive Director, University of Richmond Museums), and Mitchell Merling (Paul Mellon Curator, VMFA), as well as guest speakers from VMFA's core staff and scholars with relevant expertise from area universities and museums.

**Course topics will include:**

Orientation to VMFA Galleries and Frank Raysor Center for Study of Works on Paper ▪ The Horse in Human History ▪ French Art History I: Romanticism ▪ French Art History II: Second Empire and Impressionism ▪ French Art History III: Modernism ▪ Topics in Depth: French Artists Théodore Géricault / Edgar Degas ▪ Intensive Exhibition Checklist Review ▪ Understanding Exhibitions ▪ VMFA's Statewide exhibition program ▪ The University Museum and its Mission ▪ Staging Exhibitions ▪ Writing Exhibition Didactics ▪ Exhibition Design ▪ The Role of Education in Exhibitions

**Enrollment & Course Requirements**

The seminar is open by invitation to qualified “rising seniors” attending universities within a one-hour driving radius of VMFA. Enrollment is contingent upon the nomination of their respective faculty advisor or department and selection by VMFA staff through competitive application. Concurrent with the Fall 2015 academic calendar, the course will meet at VMFA every Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:00pm for twelve weeks (additional “reading” weeks will be built into the course calendar).

Weekly attendance with active participation in object-based discussion is mandatory. Students will prepare exhibition didactics, deliver a final presentation and brief summary thereof (i.e. a seminar position paper), and must commit to presenting at a public symposium held during the run of the exhibition at University of Richmond Museums.

In addition, each student must enroll in an independent study or directed research with a faculty advisor at their university and is responsible for knowing the requirements of their respective program of study. This course, which involves extensive object-based study using the VMFA permanent collection, might provide material for senior honors theses or similar capstone projects— thus the teaching staff will remain accessible to the students working on related projects after the seminar is completed.

**To apply:**

Students must submit a cover letter, CV or resume, a letter of departmental support, an (unofficial) transcript and list of relevant coursework completed, and a short (max 10 pages) writing sample assembled in a single PDF. Applications must be received by **February 15, 2015**. Selected students will be notified by **March 1, 2015**.

**For more information on the seminar or to submit application materials, please contact Kristie Couser, VMFA Curatorial Assistant for the Mellon Collections, at [kristie.couser@vmfa.museum](mailto:kristie.couser@vmfa.museum).**