

### TAKE-HOME FINAL ESSAY

Choose one of the following topics and prepare a one-hour essay to be written in class, without notes, as part of your Final Exam, on Wednesday, December 20, 9:00 am – noon. (Exam J) In preparing your essay, feel free to discuss these ideas with your classmates and others. The professor will be generally unwilling to discuss these questions after the last day of class. However, if you have questions, please feel free to ask. You will be given a duplicate copy of these questions for your use during the Final Exam.

1. Albrecht Dürer (d. 1528) and Hieronymous Bosch (d. 1516) emerge as the two most significant artists of the last part of the course, and the ones with whom we spent the most time. Their work holds a fascination and intellectual complexity that was recognized in the sixteenth century as well as today.

In a one-hour essay, compare and contrast the work of these two artists. Should we understand them as embodiments of opposing artistic ideals, or do the similarities between them outweigh the differences? Consider their individual attitudes toward religion, reformation, science, and humanism. Taken together, what do they tell us about the concerns and practice of northern artists at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup>-centuries? Your comments should take into account the entire *oeuvre* of each of these artists, but you might include a more detailed discussion of only a few significant works.

2. Imagine that you are a German artist in the years around 1525. Because you are a high-ranking officer in the guild, you are attending a session of the City Council which is debating whether or not to destroy the art in the local churches. What position do you take? Why? Present your arguments concerning religious imagery, either for or against. In preparing your arguments, consider the nature of religious art from ca. 1450-1525. The attached handout will help you identify specific arguments about religious art that were presented by Karlstadt and Luther. Defend your points with specific examples of art and patronage from the material covered in this class, especially from 1450 onward. Remember that in making your case, you will need to answer specific arguments likely to be made by the other side.

You may present your opinions in any format you feel appropriate (essay, debate, etc.) You will be graded on the accuracy and insight with which you discuss the forms and functions of art, and how well you present the concerns of the artists in this period.