



Jacob Riis, *The Bandits' Roost*, 1888

Seminar in American Art of the Gilded Age

ARHS 6353

Fall 2022

Fridays, 2:00-4:50 pm

The purpose of this seminar is to provide an overview of some of the central scholarly issues concerning American art and culture from the Gilded Age (1865-1915). We will discuss a wide range of visual discourse (from the paintings of John Singer Sargent and Winslow Homer to opulent dresses and Tiffany lamps, racist Civil War monuments and photographs of poor immigrants in New York's Lower East Side), as well as the novels of Edith Wharton, Henry James, Mark Twain, and Jack London. We will discuss various ways in which this cultural discourse embodied notions of gender, class, race, and national identity. The strengths and weaknesses of the various assumptions about the imagery will be evaluated. Such discussions will be relevant for your own research, thinking, and writing.

Dr. Randall Griffin