



ARTH 311

TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY NEW ZEALAND ART



Art History
School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Trimester 1 2013
4 March to 3 July 2013

Cover image: John Lake, from *The Campus*, 2011
Colour photograph
Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection

ARTH 311

TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY NEW ZEALAND ART

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 4 March to 7 June 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013

Study week: 10–14 June 2013

Examination/Assessment Period: 14 June to 3 July 2013

Students must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course co-ordinator:

Tina Barton

OK 315, ph: 04 463 5254

tina.barton@vuw.ac.nz

Art History administrator:

Pippa Wisheart

OK 306, ph: 04 463 5800

pippa.wisheart@vuw.ac.nz

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lecture: Tuesday 11-12.50 Murphy LT101

Tutorial: Thursday 11-12.50 Murphy LT101

TEACHING/LEARNING SUMMARY

ARTH 311 consists of 12 two-hour lectures and 11 one or two-hour tutorials, with one lecture and one tutorial scheduled each week over the duration of the trimester. Students must be available for both two-hour slots each week, as tutorials will often entail two-hour full-class discussions, class trips and guest lectures as well as one-hour small-group discussions. Tutorials are discussion-based so students are expected to have undertaken readings in advance of the classes. The lecture and tutorial programme are complementary and attendance at both is mandatory.

OPTIONAL CLASS TRIP

In addition to the lectures and tutorials an optional class trip to the 5TH Auckland Triennial will be organised if there is sufficient interest from students. This would take place over the weekend of 18-19 May.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Blackboard: www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz

Art History office: OK306, 3rd (ground) floor, Old Kirk.

Notices regarding the course will be posted on the Art History noticeboard in Old Kirk outside the office.

Art History online: www.victoria.ac.nz/art-history

Adam Art Gallery: www.adamartgallery.org.nz

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course investigates issues that have shaped contemporary art practice in New Zealand from 1960 to the present.

COURSE CONTENT

ARTH 311 is a critical and selective investigation of contemporary art in New Zealand. The course offers a map of contemporary art practice, examining its various contexts and providing historical and discursive frameworks within which to think about current practice. The course is interrogative rather than definitive, and features engagement with the art world in its various guises. Students will meet artists and curators, visit exhibitions, galleries and museums and have the opportunity to undertake original research

LECTURE AND TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

The lecture and tutorial programme are complementary and attendance at both is strongly recommended (it is a mandatory course requirement that you attend 10 of the 12 lectures and 9 of the 11 tutorials and a roll will be taken). Readings are listed on lecture hand-outs and posted on Blackboard. Tutorial readings are available in the ARTH 311 Handbook. Further reading is listed later in this course outline. Images shown in lectures are posted on Blackboard, within a couple of days of the lecture.

WEEK 1

5 March	Lecture 1 Introduction
7 March	Tutorial 1 What is contemporary art?

WEEK 2

12 March	Lecture 2 The contexts of contemporary art
14 March	Tutorial 2 Class trip to Adam Art Gallery and Cuba Street galleries

WEEK 3

19 March	Lecture 3 Contemporary art and history
21 March	Tutorial 3 Key terms for contemporary art

WEEK 4

26 March	Lecture 4 Contemporary art and consumer culture
28 March	Tutorial 4 No tutorial (Easter Break)

EASTER BREAK

2 April	No lecture
4 April	No tutorial

Exhibition review due 8 April

WEEK 5

9 April	Lecture 5 Painting after modernism
11 April	Tutorial 5 Discussion followed by visit to Saskia Leek exhibition, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt

WEEK 6

16 April	Lecture 6 Contemporary art and photography
18 April	Tutorial 6 Discussion: the photographic document and its purposes

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

22 April	No lecture
24 April	No tutorial

WEEK 7

30 April	Lecture 7 After the object—site/situation/document
2 May	Tutorial 7 Site-specificity, a shifting condition, discussion with artist, Maddie Leach

WEEK 8

7 May	Lecture 8 The textual turn
9 May	Tutorial 8 Close reading—a small-group exercise

Research project due 13 May

WEEK 9

14 May	Lecture 9 Models of artistic practice now
16 May	Tutorial 9 Debate: for and against et al

WEEK 10

21 May	Lecture 10 Re-making the West—contemporary indigeneity
23 May	Tutorial 10 Politics of identity, discussion followed by visit to Te Papa

WEEK 11

28 May	Lecture 11 Local/Global—negotiating the politics of space
30 May	Tutorial 11 New Zealand on a world stage

WEEK 12

4 June	Lecture 12 The future of the contemporary—a panel discussion
6 June	Tutorial 12 Course review and exam preparation

Essay due 7 June

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who pass this course will/should be able to:

- Understand the key practices, ideas, issues and contexts relevant to contemporary New Zealand art;
- Analyse and interpret works of art through the lens of discourses and debates that are shaping contemporary art in New Zealand;
- Recognise and use a range of different approaches to art historical material and modes of critical writing;
- Produce substantial pieces of written work which demonstrate an ability to think and write critically;
- Consistently apply the conventions of academic art historical writing;
- Use the full range of reference systems in the University Library, including periodicals and on-line databases;
- Extend research skills by using resources specific to the study of contemporary New Zealand art beyond the University Library, including primary resources;
- Contribute critically in oral discussions in lectures, tutorials and on class visits.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The University recommends that students should spend **200 hours** on a 20-point course. This should be spread over the entire course and includes attending lectures and tutorials, reading, research and writing for classes and assignments and exams. This equates to approximately 18 hours per week.

READINGS

There are no set texts for ARTH 311 however a **Handbook** with tutorial readings has been prepared. Readings listed on your lecture hand-outs that are not included in the handbook will be available on Blackboard or can be downloaded online. From time to time, new and additional material will be drawn to your attention in lectures and tutorials. Useful material can also be found in the **ARTH 213 Handbook**, which you may already have.

The reading list that follows canvasses a wide array of material relevant to this course but it is NOT complete. In particular, resources on individual artists are NOT included in this list. You will be expected to supplement this reading list by undertaking your own research (some advice about how to do this follows).

RESEARCH RESOURCES

The VUW Library is an important repository for material on New Zealand art. You will find books, catalogues and periodicals on Level 5. There may also be material in the Architecture and Design Library at Vivian Street, so always check the catalogue. In addition to this, you should also make use of the following repositories:

- **Te Aka Matua Research Library**, Level 4, Te Papa, Cable Street
Open Monday-Friday 10.00am-5.00pm by appointment only. For more information see: <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/ResearchAtTePapa/LibraryAndInfoCentre/Pages/overview.aspx>
- **Wellington Central Library**, Civic Square
The central library has a reference only New Zealand section on Level 2. For more information see: <http://www.wcl.govt.nz/about/branches/central/>
- **National Library of New Zealand**, Cnr Molesworth and Aitken Streets
The National Library has reading rooms on Level 1 of its newly refurbished building and its online catalogue is a very useful research tool. For more information see: <http://natlib.govt.nz/visiting/wellington>
- **Art History Library and NZ Art Archive**, OK307
Open if the ARTH Administrator is in her office. The Art History programme has a small library of New Zealand related material. There are also artist, institutional, gallery and subject files relating to New Zealand art that are jointly administered by the Art History programme and the Adam Art Gallery. You must check with the Programme Administrator (or your course coordinator) before using this. No material can be removed, though arrangements can be made for photocopying. For more information see: <http://www.adamartgallery.org.nz/research/archive/>

In addition to the above, I have material you may find helpful so don't hesitate to ask.

BUYING BOOKS AT VUW

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00am – 6.00pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

ARTH 311 is assessed by means of an exhibition review, a research project, an essay, and a two-hour final examination. The relative weight of the course assessment is 70% in term and 30% final exam. The deadlines, word lengths and percentage weightings of the different assignments are as follows:

1	Exhibition review (800 words)	10%	8 April
2	Research project (1500 words)	20%	13 May
3	Essay (2500 words)	40%	7 June
4	Final exam (2 hours)	30%	14 June-3 July (Exam period)

The exhibition review, research project, essay and exam are designed to fulfil the learning objectives outlined on page 6. In particular:

1. **The exhibition review** requires you to study a contemporary art exhibition first-hand and write a short critical review that demonstrates a considered response to the work. This will enable you to learn the conventions of critical writing, to develop your observational and analytical skills, and to think independently.
2. **The research project** requires you to research available resources on an individual artist and to compile a dossier of information that appropriately documents their work. This exercise is designed to develop your knowledge of the resources on New Zealand art; to enhance your research techniques in relation to a particular artist; to develop your abilities to assess, select, and sort relevant information, and to present your research according to the conventions of art historical and curatorial work.
3. **The essay** is an opportunity for sustained critical analysis of a particular aspect of contemporary New Zealand art. This will require you to read contemporary commentary and theory as well as closely examine the work of specific artists, curators and critical writers. You will be assessed on your ability to research your topic, formulate an argument and structure your essay so that your points are clearly made and your essay conforms to the conventions of art historical writing.
4. **The exam** will enable you to apply knowledge gained through the course to critically analyse the topics covered. You will be expected to bring specific knowledge of individual artists, works and arguments to bear on your understanding of larger themes and issues.

All assignments are designed to develop your observational and analytical skills, your abilities to research and write, and to gain confidence in presenting material in a variety of formats and situations. The assessment will also ensure your progress can be evaluated and, in particular, develop competencies so you can proceed to Honours-level study in art history. **Criteria** for all assessment are listed after the instructions for each (pages 18, 20 and 22 respectively).

All written assignments must be submitted in a hard copy by the due date. Only in exceptional circumstances can an electronic copy be sent to the course coordinator and this must be replaced by a hard copy as soon as practicable. You must pay attention to setting out, correct spelling and grammar. Assignments must be double-spaced, on one side of the page, with a generous left-hand margin. Always proof-read your work carefully, or get a friend to do so, as poorly presented material can be very distracting for a marker. You are advised to read *Researching and Writing Art History Essays*, Art History's handbook which sets out standard practice, which is available on Blackboard (under 'Assignments'). You should always make a copy of your essay before placing it in the Art History assignment box in the foyer of Old Kirk, Level 3 (ground floor).

All assessment is marked by your course co-ordinator. A **second opinion** may be requested in the final assessment of any piece of written work.

PENALTIES

Art History has a policy that no extensions will be granted. If you have medical or other problems preventing you from meeting a deadline, you must contact your course co-ordinator at the earliest opportunity. Without arrangements having been agreed to, late essays will be penalised by the deduction of two percentage points for each day beyond the due date. The reasons exceptions are not made are that we cannot privilege some students over others; we must adhere to a defined programme of marking; and results must be

furnished to Student & Academic Services on time. It is also important that we ensure students keep up with the course.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- complete and submit the exhibition review, research project and the essay specified for the course , on or by the due date,
- attend 10 out of 12 lectures and 9 out of 11 tutorials (a good contribution to tutorial discussions will make a difference to your grade if you are borderline),
- sit the final exam.

No assignments will be accepted after **7 June 2013**. No extensions (for any reason) can be granted beyond this date. If you are in any doubt about your ability to meet this deadline you must see your course co-ordinator immediately. All requirements are strictly enforced.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be elected in the first class. This person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work. Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C). Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic.

TAPING OF LECTURES

All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use their own audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form, which advises of copyright and other relevant issues.

WIN \$500

THE CHARTWELL TRUST STUDENT ART WRITING PRIZE 2013

The Adam Art Gallery is calling for entries for the Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize—an annual writing initiative focusing on visual art and culture.

ELIGIBILITY

The prize is open to Victoria University of Wellington students from any of the following programmes: Art History, Classics, Religious Studies, Museum and Heritage Studies, English, Film, Theatre, Media Studies and Music.

PRIZE

The winning entry will receive a cash prize of \$500 and have their essay published on the Adam Art Gallery website www.adamartgallery.org.nz

GUIDELINES/CRITERIA

Entries should be in the form of a review or essay addressing an exhibition at the Adam Art Gallery or a work from the VUW Art Collection
Submissions should be no more than 1,500 words
Texts should be clearly labelled with author's name, contact details, course of study and student ID
Texts must be submitted in both hard copy form and in Microsoft Word format (A4, single sided and 1.5 spaced)
Check www.adamartgallery.org.nz/learning-opportunities/chartwell-trust-student-writing-prize for previous winning entries.

DEADLINE

Entries are now open and can be submitted anytime until the closing date.
The closing date for submissions is Monday 23 September 2013

Entries should be sent to:
The Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize
c/- Adam Art Gallery
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington 6140
or via email adamartgallery@vuw.ac.nz

GOOD LUCK!