

## ARTH 406

# THE CULTURES OF COLLECTING



## ART HISTORY

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Trimester 1 and 2

4 March – 17 November 2013

## KEY DATES

Trimester dates: 4 March to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 4 March to 18 October 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break 1/3: 22–28 April 2013

Mid-year break: 4–14 July 2013

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Aegrotat period begins: 30 September

COVER IMAGE; Honoré Daumier, *The connoisseur*, c.1864, crayon and gouache  
(New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art)

## ARTH 406 THE CULTURES OF COLLECTING COURSE OUTLINE

**Course co-ordinator:** Roger Blackley, OK 308, phone 463 5802  
**Time:** Tuesdays, 10-11.50 pm, or as scheduled  
**Place:** Old Kirk 524 (adjacent to Classics Museum)  
**Information:** Any additional information will be posted on the Art History noticeboard adjacent to Pippa Wisheart's office, OK 306.

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**ARTH 406** explores the history of collecting – private and institutional – from antiquity to the present. The course encourages a critical reading of texts dealing with collecting and collections, crossing disciplinary boundaries to incorporate historical, psychological, anthropological and literary perspectives. Students compile case studies on individual collectors and collections and address theoretical issues raised by the phenomenon of collecting.

**400-level studies are shaped by you**, the students. There are no formal lectures, although specialists from within and outside VUW will participate in some of the seminar programme. The format comprises discussion leading from set readings for each session; ideally you will have followed your own path of additional reading and be able to contribute to these discussions from your particular field of interest.

**The course is internally assessed.** The first assignment is a book/exhibition review, asking you to characterise the exhibition and/or publication(s), assessing them both in relation to other works in a similar genre and in relation to the collecting themes we consider in the early seminars (worth 20%). The topic for the research essay – your main written contribution – should develop from your own interests and individual reading for the course. A number of possible subjects and areas are suggested later in the outline, but the hope is that you will come up with a topic of your own. The essay (worth 40%) is developed throughout the course, with specific set deadlines for a proposal (worth 10%) and subsequent seminar presentation (worth 30%).

## **Course prescription**

The phenomenon of collecting is universal throughout history and across every society. ARTH 406 encourages a critical reading of the literature on the history and psychology of collecting, requiring students to compile case studies related to their own interests. Topics include collecting in the ancient world, in non-European cultures, and in European and colonial societies; the history of the museum; private versus institutional collecting; and the future of collecting.

**In line with Art History's learning objectives, ARTH 406 will:**

- encourage you to apply your skills of analysis to a critical examination of the phenomenon of collecting, from a range of perspectives
- develop your capacity for independent study and learning
- encourage you to think and write critically
- ensure you exploit the full range of available library resources in addition to available primary research resources
- refine your skills in seminar presentation and oral debate
- prepare you for further post-graduate research
- introduce you to the standards required of scholarly articles and papers and the application of your skills in research and writing

## **Workload**

The University recommends that in order to maintain satisfactory progress approximately 300 hours per course, inclusive of seminar sessions, be given to a full-year, 4-course programme. Please ensure that you can set aside at least this amount of time throughout the course – it is not worth taking on a greater workload than you can manage.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- Submit a book/exhibition review, essay proposal and essay by the specified dates
- Attend no fewer than 10 out of 13 discussion sessions
- Attend at least two of the student seminar sessions
- Give a seminar presentation

# SEMINAR PROGRAMME

## TEACHING/LEARNING SUMMARY

This course is taught as a series of thirteen 2-hour seminars, two field trips and three student presentation sessions. Students are expected to prepare for each seminar by doing the reading and by participating in the seminar discussion.

**All set readings are reprinted in the ARTH 406 Course Handbook. Please purchase your copy from vicbooks: Vol 1 costs \$17.50 and Vol 2 is \$19.**

5 March

- 1      Introductory meeting: 'Noah was the first collector'**

12 March

- 2      Visit to 'Head and Shoulders' at the Turnbull Gallery**

19 March

- 3      Theorising collecting**

26 March

- 4      The academic pursuit of collecting**

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28 March—3 April

**EASTER BREAK**

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9 April

- 5      The psychology of collecting**

16 April

- 6      Collecting in the ancient world**

**Note: Book/exhibition review due Friday 19 April**

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22-28 April **MID-TRIMESTER BREAK**

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30 April  
7 **Curiosity cabinets**

7 May  
7 **The emergence of the public art museum**

14 May  
9 **Between science and art**

21 May  
10 **Destruction, theft and the rise of 'heritage'**

28 May  
11 **Rare Book collecting and curating, Alexander Turnbull Library**

**Note: Essay proposal due Friday 7 June**

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10 June—14 July **MID-YEAR BREAK**

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16 July  
12 **Cultural property and ownership**

23 July  
**No class**

30 July

**Seminar presentations (I)**

The seminars will be grouped into three sessions, each with several presentations, which ideally could have some kind of thematic relationships (but which messy reality might deliver as highly assorted). Keep them to 15-20 minutes, to allow appropriate time for discussion.

6 August

**Seminar presentations (II)**

13 August

**Seminar presentations (III)**

20 August

**13 Body-snatching**

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26 August—8 September

**MID-TRIMESTER BREAK**

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10 September

**No class**

17 September

**14 Taonga tuku iho: Collecting in the Maori world**

24 September — 1 October — 8 October

**No classes (essay writing a priority)**

**Note: Research essay due Friday 11 October**

15 October

**15 The futures of collecting**

## ASSESSMENT

ARTH 406 is assessed by means of:

- **one book/exhibition review** (worth 20%) due Friday 19 April
- **one essay proposal** (10%), due Friday 7 June
- **one seminar presentation** (30%) during July and August
- **one research essay** (40%) due Friday 11 October

**All overdue work must be submitted by 18 October 2013, and extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.**

**PENALTIES:** If you require an extension you must contact the course coordinator before the due date. Late assignments may be penalised by 2% per day.

The assessment is designed to develop your research skills as well as your skills in writing and verbal presentation. While you are expected to make a contribution to all the seminar sessions and will take responsibility for introducing one of the main readings, your own presentation will build confidence in your presentation skills as well as introduce fellow students to a range of in-depth insights into aspects of collections and collecting. By leading the discussion following your presentation, you will be developing your skills in group discussion and enabling fellow students to assist the development of your research. Your research essay, for which the proposal and seminar presentation are milestones, shapes the personal perspective you bring to the group.

The assessment relates closely to Art History's teaching objectives. Specifically, the book/exhibition review encourages critical analysis of how collecting is characterised in theoretical texts and exhibition contexts, and the research essay applies and extends your skills of critical analysis and capacity for independent study, encouraging you to exploit library and other resources and equipping you for further post-graduate research.



In all written work, please pay attention to setting out, correct spelling and grammar. Refer to the departmental handbook, *Researching and writing art history essays*, for guidance. Typed copy is essential. Use one side of the paper only, leaving a generous margin on the left-hand side.

### **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>

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

In all written work, please pay attention to setting out, correct spelling and grammar. Refer to the handbook, *Researching and Writing Art History Essays*, for guidance. Typed copy is essential. Use one side of the paper only, leaving a generous margin on the left-hand side.

## *General Information*

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### **Where to find more detailed information**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic](http://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.

### **Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that 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. Contact details for the class representative will be available from Pippa in the ARTH office.

### **Course Reader**

Postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

# 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](http://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 Victoria University of Wellington 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](http://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](mailto:adamartgallery@vuw.ac.nz)

**GOOD LUCK!**