

**ARTH 335**

**SPECIAL TOPIC: TOPICS IN THE  
HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY**



William Eggleston, *At Home*, 1978

Art History  
SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

**Trimester 1/2009**

# ARTH 335

## SPECIAL TOPIC: TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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**Course coordinator:** Lawrence McDonald  
Old Kirk 311, Tel. 04 463 5804  
Email: lawrence.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz  
Office hours: The best times to see Lawrence are  
Tuesday or Friday afternoons. Arrange a time at the end  
of any lecture.

**Lectures:** All lectures are in Murphy 101 (MYLT 101) Tuesday,  
Friday, 12 noon – 12.50pm

**Tutorials:** Weekly tutorials in Old Kirk 319 (OK 319)  
Tuesdays and Fridays (times to be arranged)  
Tutorials start in the second week.

**Administrator:** Pippa Wisheart is the Art History Administrator.  
Her office is in Old Kirk room 306 (phone 463 5800).

**For more  
information** For additional information, see the Art History  
noticeboard adjacent to Pippa Wisheart's office.  
For general information about Art History see  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/Art-History>

### **Trimester 1 runs from 2 March to 1 July**

These dates include the examination period - 12 June to 1 July. The examination timetable will be posted on the Art History noticeboard when available.

## Course Outline

ARTH 335 addresses key themes in the history of photography from the early-nineteenth century to the present. Following two introductory lectures on the nature of the medium and its theorists, the course will investigate four topics: **institutions, exhibitions and publications; photography as fine art – changing paradigms; textual forms - the photographic essay and book; and photographic portraiture.**

The course is a selective investigation, not a general or chronological survey. It aims to provide you with critical perspectives on significant themes and periods in the history of Western photographic production. Pre-modernist, modernist, and postmodernist 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century photography and photographers from Europe, the United States, Australia and New Zealand will be investigated within comparative frameworks. You will be actively engaged in researching and presenting material on some aspects of these key issues. You will become familiar with some of the major debates that have engaged and continue to engage historians, theorists and makers of photographic art works.

The lecture programme does not cover the entire course content. Lectures and tutorials are important because they will guide you through the course and provide insight into current opinion about the topics covered. However, they must be viewed as complementary to your own reading in the field, viewing of images (and, whenever possible, actual works of art), and tutorial and seminar discussions.

### Learning Objectives

In line with Art History's teaching objectives, the course will:

- introduce you to a specialized study of art and a specific area of theory and debate within art history
- refine your skills of analysis and interpretation within the specific context of the course
- develop your ability to recognize a range of different approaches to art-historical method.
- require you to produce substantial pieces of written work which demonstrate your ability to think and write critically.
- develop your skills in the presentation, analysis and discussion of visual material in tutorials.
- provide you with opportunities to view works of art and use other related primary resources.

## **Course Delivery**

The course will be delivered by means of two weekly lectures and a weekly tutorial. You are expected to come prepared to each tutorial, having done the assigned reading, and ready to take an active part in group discussions. In the early and late tutorials on general topics (i.e. those not devoted to student seminar presentations) there will be opportunities to revisit specific images shown in lectures. I will also keep you informed about relevant photographic exhibitions and events in the greater Wellington area and suggest that you try to visit as many of them as you can.



## Tutorial Programme

Tutorials are an essential supplement to lectures. They will take the form of a discussion of particular case studies that illustrate issues raised in lectures. You will have the opportunity to lead one of these discussions in a formal seminar presentation.

Tutorials will consist of discussion around issues raised in lectures and highlighted in selected readings, or of students' seminar presentations and subsequent discussion. Please make sure you are familiar with the relevant readings.

Tutorials are a compulsory part of your art history programme and **you must attend a minimum of 7 out of 10**. All tutorials are held in OK 319.

### Week beginning:

**March 2** No tutorial.

**March 9** Introduction and allocation of seminar topics.

**March 16** We discuss various theories of photography and approaches to the reading of photographs introduced in lecture two.

**March 23** We discuss key factors of agency and context that have contributed to the incorporation of photography into the art museum over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**March 30** Seminar presentations

**April 6** No tutorial

*Mid-trimester break April 10 to April 26*

**April 27** Seminar presentations

**May 4** Seminar presentations

**May 11** Seminar presentations

**May 18** Seminar presentations

**May 25** Seminar presentations

**June 1** Exam preparation and course review

## Assessment

ARTH 335 is assessed by means of a class presentation and written paper (1500 words), a research essay (2500 words), and a two-hour final exam.

The relative weight of the course assessment is 70 % in-term, and 30% final exam.

The percentage weight of the different assignments is as follows:

- a) Presentation & Paper 30%
- b) Research Essay 40%
- c) Final Exam (2 hrs) 30% (examination period - 12 June to 1 July)

The date for the tutorial presentation will be set during the first tutorial meeting. The date for the research essay depends on when you give your tutorial presentation: for those with tutorial presentations before the mid-trimester break, your essay is due on **June 5**. For those with tutorial presentations after the mid-trimester break, your essay is due on **April 28**.

These assignments are designed to fulfill the teaching objectives outlined earlier in the course outline:

The **tutorial presentation** requires you to present a response to a set question to your tutorial group. The presentation should consist of a 10 – 15 minute oral presentation using appropriate visual aids (i.e. slides, Powerpoint). You are also required to submit a 1500 word paper based on your presentation, and a bibliography of works consulted, using appropriate scholarly conventions. This paper is due one week after the date of your seminar presentation.

The **research essay** requires you to read relevant art historical and critical literature, testing your ability to organize this and to construct an argument. It provides an opportunity for you to investigate an aspect of the history of art in the light of the social, political and theoretical context afforded by the art history and critical commentary relating to the period. The essay topics are framed in such a way that you will develop your analytical and observational ability as well as your research, writing and presentation skills.

The **exam** will consist of short essay questions, and will provide an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the topics addressed in lectures, tutorials and course readings.

**All written work must cite sources** in footnotes, and include a bibliography of all works consulted during the research process, using appropriate scholarly conventions.

Ensure that you are presenting a point of view in your essay and that the points you make support that view. Plan your essay thoroughly, organising your thoughts clearly and logically so that the argument you develop is understood by the reader. You may discuss progress on your essay with your tutor at any stage, but the tutor cannot comment on a draft prior to the final date.

You must pay attention to setting out, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. By 300-level you should be familiar with and apply the conventions of academic art history writing. Please refer to the departmental handbook, *Researching and Writing Art History Essays* for guidance (available on Blackboard).

All written work must be typed. Leave a generous margin on the left-hand side for the marker's comments. If writing is not your strength, ask someone to check your work – many an essay with good ideas is marred by poor presentation.

### **Workload**

The University recommends that you spend approximately 18 hours per week, inclusive of lectures and tutorials, on a 300-level course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Please ensure that you are able to 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** for ARTH 335 will be satisfied with 70% tutorial attendance (i.e., at least 7 tutorials), completion of one research essay, one class presentation and written paper, and one exam. All internal assessment must be met by Friday, June 5, 2009.

It is essential that all pieces of work are received from each student completing ARTH 335. All requirements are strictly enforced.

### **Extensions, late penalties and second opinions**

Art History has a policy that **extensions will not be granted**. If you have medical or other problems preventing you from meeting a deadline you must contact your course coordinator at the earliest opportunity. Without prior 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 will not be made** are that we cannot privilege some students over others; we must adhere to a defined programme of marking; and



the results must be furnished to Student Records on time. It is also important that we ensure that you keep up with the course.

Make sure you keep a **copy** of your essays before placing them in the Art History assignment box in the foyer of Old Kirk, Level 3 (ground floor) by 5pm on the due date. Late essays should be handed in to your lecturer or to the programme administrator.

Essays will be marked by your lecturer. A **second opinion** may be requested in the final assessment of any piece of written work.

## Research Essay

The due date for the research essay depends on when you give your tutorial presentation: for those with tutorial presentations before the mid-trimester break, your essay is due on **June 5**. For those with tutorial presentations after the mid-trimester break, your essay is due on **April 28**. Make sure you answer a question from the list related to when your essay is due. Note: your essay and seminar presentations must be on different topics.

Length: 2500-3000 (maximum) words, typed in double spacing, with a generous left-hand margin for comments.

Please read the questions carefully and make sure that you address all aspects of the question you choose to answer. Contact the course coordinator for help if you do not fully understand the question.

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

### 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.

### 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.aspx>