

**MHST 518**  
**RESEARCH ESSAY**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**



Oamaru Harbour Board office, Oamaru 1877 Photo: Gavin Mclean

**Museum & Heritage Studies programme**

**School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies**  
**Victoria University of Wellington**

**2013**

**Trimester 1 & 2**

**5 March to 17 November**

**Course Coordinator**

Dr Conal McCarthy  
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Museum & Heritage Studies  
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**Administrator:**

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**Venue** OK 301

**Teaching 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  
Study week: 21–25 October 2013  
Examination/Assessment Period: 25 October to 16 November 2013

**Withdrawal dates**

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

**Supervision:**

Students are expected to work independently on their research and writing and see the course coordinator weekly or by arrangement for supervision and feedback as required.

**Content and objectives:**

This course aims to develop and extend research and writing skills. It is a 1:1 directed study of a particular topic within the field of museum and heritage studies leading to a substantial 10,000 word essay based on the student's own research. Students are expected to identify a topic, develop a research question in relation to a body of literature, and investigate it using appropriate theoretical frameworks and methodologies. Their findings should be presented in the form of written prose according to current academic conventions and in line with the style required.

The following topics have been the subject of research by students for essays and theses: Cultural and natural heritage, museum history and theory, museum and heritage policy, management and practice, art and visual culture, culture and identity, public history, education and interpretation, Māori heritage, Pacific heritage, exhibitions and collections, audience and visitor research, design and display, heritage buildings, sites, monuments, and landscapes etc.

**Assessment**

The course will be assessed on the basis of a 10,000 essay delivered on Oct 18.

**Milestones:****Proposal (due end April)**

After a period of reading and discussion with the academic supervisor, the student is expected to complete a proposal for a research essay on a particular topic related to museum and heritage history, theory or practice and its application in the field in New Zealand today. This should contain an overview of the topic, objectives, the research question, methodology, basic literature review and timeline for completion of the essay.

**Literature review (due beginning June)**

Once the student has completed reading the relevant secondary sources they should complete a review of approx 3-4,000 words which gives a progressive survey of the literature in the field of museum and heritage studies related to this topic, ending with an idea of the particular problem they are analysing and the theories, methods and analytical framework they will use to conduct the research.

**Final essay (due Oct 18)**

The essay should be presented soft bound and presented according to the appropriate academic conventions and style. It will be assessed by an internal examiner along with an external examiner who is person with the appropriate academic and professional skills. The student will be presented with a moderated letter grade and report.

**Workload:**

It is expected that this course will require approximately 300 hours work for the whole year.

**Relationship of assessment to course objectives:**

The completed essay is expected to demonstrate evidence of advanced research and writing skills in the field of Museum & Heritage Studies.

## Style guide

Strict adherence to a particular style is a very important part of academic writing that students are expected to master during the course of the year. All essays should correspond to the Chicago style: so it is expected that writing will be presented in Times New Roman font sized at 12 pt, spaced at one a half. Text should be justified left and ragged on the right margin. Block quotes of more than 3 lines should be offset and single space without quote marks. All references should also correspond to the Chicago style. If you prefer to use footnotes, use Chicago A. If you prefer in-text references, use Chicago B.

Please consult the online examples for references in footnotes, citations and bibliography under reference guides/online reference collection on the library website:

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

For all other queries, consult the style guide in the reference section of the central library: *The Chicago Manual of Style*. 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

### Sample references:

#### Book

*Chicago A*

Footnote:

Wendy Doniger, *Splitting the Difference* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999), 65.

Subsequent footnotes:

Doniger, 1999, 76.

OR Doniger, *Splitting the Difference*, 76.

NB Ibid may be used only if the citation is exactly the same in every respect.

Bibliography:

Doniger, Wendy. *Splitting the Difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

*Chicago B*

In text reference:

(Doniger 1999, 65)

References:

Doniger, Wendy. 1999. *Splitting the difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**Journal article:**

*Chicago A*

Footnote:

John Maynard Smith, "The Origin of Altruism," *Nature* 39(3) (1998): 639.

Bibliography:

Smith, John Maynard. "The Origin of Altruism." *Nature* 39(3) 1998: 639–40.

*Chicago B*

In text reference:

(Smith 1998, 639)

References:

Smith, John Maynard. 1998. The origin of altruism. *Nature* 39(3): 639–40.

**For help with writing**

Please attend the very useful workshops run by the library and Student Learning Support on aspects of research skills and writing. Do not hesitate to consult one of the advisors at SLS about your essays:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/index](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/index)

Consult the study hub for resources and tips:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/studyhub](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/studyhub)

**Penalties**

Students must submit the essay on time and according to the requirements. The essay will be externally moderated.

**Mandatory course requirements**

The student must make a reasonable attempt to research, write and submit a satisfactory essay.

## 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.

### **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>

## References:

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