



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

ART HISTORY

ARTH 401 Art History Methodology

30 POINTS

Trimester 1 & 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Mid-year break: 2–12 July 2015

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 16 October

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

All lectures are in Old Kirk OK524

Thursday 14:10 – 16:00

Names and contact details

Peter Brunt, Course coordinator

OK310, Tel: 463 5805 peter.brunt@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours by appointment

Communication of additional information

Art History is situated on Level 3 (ground floor) of the Old Kirk building.

Pippa Wisheart, Art History's Administrator, has her office in OK 306 (ext. 5800). Notices regarding the course will be posted on the board adjacent to her office. Course information will also be available on Blackboard.

Prescription

ARTH 401 investigates the approaches art historians have developed from art history's beginnings to the present. It critically examines the work of significant art historians in relation to key topics: the construction of the artistic subject; the question of style, the interpretation of meaning; theories

of perception and visual culture; the role of context and the social production of art. This is a compulsory course for Art History Honours.

Course content

This course aims to introduce its participants to art historical study at an advanced level. The class will critically examine a variety of interpretive methods associated with the practice of art history, particularly those developed over the past forty years, such as formalism, marxism, social history, feminism, semiotics, deconstruction, visual culture, world art and postcolonialism. In that sense it will provide students with a necessarily partial typology of recent art historical practices.

The class will ask participants to develop their skills in looking, researching, writing, and argumentation, four of the basic components of academic art history. However it will also take account of other common art historical practices, such as those encountered in the studio, in museums, and in galleries. In brief, the motivating principle of the class will be a single crucial question: "what is the purpose of art history today?"

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. apply their skills of analysis to critically examine visual and textual material
2. work independently - formulate, analyse and refine topics
3. gather and organise relevant information and evidence from published and unpublished sources
4. consistently apply the conventions of academic writing and art historical research.

Teaching format

The course is delivered by means of a series of 20 seminar sessions. Each session is structured around the discussion of a group of readings.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. attend at least 17 of the 20 seminar sessions
2. complete and submit the first assignment (not graded)
3. contribute one post and regular comments to the course blog
4. complete and submit two essays.

Workload

The University recommends that approximately 300 hours per course per week, inclusive of seminars, be given to a full year, 4-course graduate programme in order to maintain satisfactory progress.

Formal class time includes 40 hours of seminars, while at least 160 hours need to be devoted to reading for your seminars, with another 100 hours required for the assessment items.

Assessment

The course is assessed by means of an assignment (ungraded), contribution to the course blog, and TWO essays. Marking criteria are available on Blackboard.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	<p>Assignment</p> <p>A short (1-2 pages maximum) exposition of why you want to be an art historian and what you think it means. Your exposition will necessarily include a definition of the purposes and primary conventions of art history, as you see it.</p> <p>Not graded</p>	0%	1,2, 4	16 March
2	<p>Contribution to the course blog</p> <p>You will contribute one post (600-800 words) to the course blog based on one of the seminar sessions and its related readings and questions. (Seminar sessions will be assigned in class.) You will also be required to comment on the posts and comments of fellow students throughout the course.</p>	20%	1, 2, 3, 4	On-going until 16 October
3	<p>First essay</p> <p>Choose a current exhibition at a local art museum or gallery. Write a succinct but thorough critical analysis of your chosen exhibition <i>in terms of its representation of art history</i>.</p> <p>Word length: 2,500 words</p>	30%	1,2, 3, 4	5 June
4	<p>Second essay</p> <p>Choose a recent art historical essay that deals with a specific art object or practice from your own intended field of specialisation. Identify and critically analyse the historical method (or methods) being employed in this essay.</p> <p>Word length: 5,000 words</p>	50%	1,2, 3, 4	25 September

Submission and return of work

Hand your essays to your course coordinator or place them in the Art History assignment box in the Old Kirk foyer. The course coordinator is responsible for marking all assessment. You may request a second opinion of the assessment of any piece of written work, from another lecturer in Art History. Coursework will be reviewed by an external assessor in order to ensure that academic standards at honours level are met. Your final grade for the course may be adjusted both to reflect your overall contribution to and achievement in the course and in response to the feedback from the external assessor.

Extensions and penalties

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 with the course coordinator, late essays will be penalised by the deduction of two percentage points for each day beyond the due date.

Set texts

Course readings are available on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

Robert Nelson and Richard Schiff eds., *Critical Terms for Art History* (Uni of Chicago Press, 1996).

Donald Preziosi ed., *The Art of Art History: A Critical Anthology* (Oxford University Press, 1998).

Mark Cheetham et. al. eds., *The Subjects of Art History: Historical Objects in Contemporary Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile

- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

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.