

V.A. 3610 Visual Arts Internship (3,*,*) (E)

Prerequisite: Completion of minimum four Visual Arts level II courses

All students of the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme are recommended to undertake an internship within their preferred career area during their time of study. An internship links classroom theory to professional practice, and thus will provide the student with learning experiences beyond the possibilities of the BA (Hons) programme. Such experience will be valuable for the student's professional and personal development, and in particular very helpful in establishing and/or verifying the student's career intentions.

As any internship is not supposed to interfere with the regular studies of the student, it will usually be taken as a summer course during term break. Any internship will be self-organized by the student, in an institutional body related to the cultural and/or creative sector. To be eligible for credit units the internship needs to represent a workload equivalent to 264 regular working hours (i.e. six full working weeks) to be taken as one consecutive employment. The nature of work performed by the intern during the internship should reflect a reasonable professional level in design, visual arts, arts administration or equivalent.

If a student intends to claim credit units for an internship, he has to seek approval through the Internship Coordinator prior to up-taking the position. In order to get approval the student needs to provide sufficient information about the internship provider—including the name and contact data of a specified supervisor from within the internship institution—as well as about the intended nature of work during the internship. Upon returning to his studies the student is obliged to provide exhaustive documentation of his doings during the internship, and a written report from the internship supervisor to the Internship Coordinator. The Internship Coordinator will assess the sufficient validity of the tasks performed during the internship, and declare—usually after consultation with other academic staff—the relevancy of the internship for one particular concentration. Any internship will only be graded as “pass/fail”, and will be listed in the student's Transcript of Records.

V.A. 3620 Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Art History (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: V.A. 2780 Writing in Art and Culture or V.A. 1220 Introduction to Western Art and V.A. 1210 Introduction to Chinese Art

The early meetings and exchanges between Europe and Asia have left a valuable legacy for intercultural studies in the present era of globalization. The accelerated flow of artefacts, artworks, ideas and people from one nation to the other has contributed to the active dialogue between Asian and Western cultures. It also enriches our knowledge and experience of cross-cultural encounters in the global community.

This theme-based course examines the reception and production of visual arts in the context of cross-cultural interaction amongst Western and Asian countries, including America, Europe, China, Japan, India and the Middle East. It will lay emphasis on China's encounters with the outside world from the 18th to the 20th century. Most materials will explore how Western collectors and artists perceived Asian art and material culture, ranging from paintings, woodcuts and photographs, to porcelains, sculptures, furniture and gardens. The in-depth analysis of the production, design and consumption of Chinese and Japanese export art, as well as their impact on Western taste and art practice, will inform critical issues of art training and art market in the modern period. Considering the collecting of foreign objects in China and the presence of European Jesuits and artists at the imperial court, this course will also investigate Asian interest in Western art and the production of the hybrid forms of art. Issues of museum collecting and looting, as well as the theoretical discourses of Orientalism and colonialism will be discussed.

Through lectures, group discussions and field trips, this course will offer students a greater depth of the understanding of art and cultural history from a historical, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective. It will broaden their knowledge of

creativity by demonstrating wider and diverse visual environments in different social, cultural, political and economic contexts. By understanding and evaluating cross-cultural issues in art, students can engage in a dynamic creative process with an international outlook.

V.A. 3630 Special Topics in Visual Arts Studies (3,3,0) (E/C)

Prerequisite: V.A. 1220 Introduction to Western Art and V.A. 1210 Introduction to Chinese Art

This course aims to provide an opportunity for students to study in-depth, selected topics in contemporary issues related to the theoretical study of the Visual Arts. Through examination of theories related to the topic, students will look at issues from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment of the Visual Arts.

The course will normally start with a discussion and introduction to the special topic in relation to the study and practice of the Visual Arts. Depending on the nature of the selected topic, the course will focus on one or more important trends of thought, assessing their relevance to contemporary culture and practice. Assigned readings will be interdisciplinary, and students will be encouraged to examine the topic from a cross-cultural perspective. The course will conclude with a critical reflection on the topic and its relevance to the general understanding of Visual Arts.

This course changes subjects/theme regularly; therefore the individual instructor in consultation with the Visual Arts Studies Division will determine the selected topic, to take full advantage of developing research, issues and global developments in the visual arts.

V.A. 3640 Visual Anthropology (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: V.A. 2240 Material Culture and Collections or V.A. 1220 Introduction to Western Art and V.A. 1210 Introduction to Chinese Art

This course introduces the study of visual anthropology, examining the visual documentation of humanity and its cultures. Exploring a variety of media objects and events, this course critically engages students into debates and issues related to photography, advertising, global mass media, material culture and the impact of new technologies.

The visual interpretation offers significant insight into our understanding of the human development in terms of our own identities, and within the wider global and historical contexts. Fragile, and often temporarily specific, the analyses of visual elements offer an intellectual platform for contextualization and decontextualization.

Exploring concepts and methods as research tools for anthropological inquiry that consider the inter-connection of reality, social perspectives, and the resulting visuality, which can help to inform and influence our ways of understanding and assimilating our lives and societies.

Through the discussions of what images mean to us, and their effects, the course will further poses crucial questions surrounding our understanding within the historical, cultural and social, value and power of vision, image and artefact. Emphasizing and contextualizing the relations between people and the visual as objects, studied both within and external to, environmental and cultural context, this course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment of the Visual Arts.

V.A. 3650 Special Topics in Craft and Design (3,4,0) (E/C)

Prerequisite: To be specified by offering instructor

This course aims to provide an opportunity for students to study in-depth selected topics in contemporary issues related to the various creative practices in Craft and Design.

Through examination of theories related to the topic, students will get an initial look at issues in the Craft and Design from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The course will then guide them to integrate various points of view, and to