

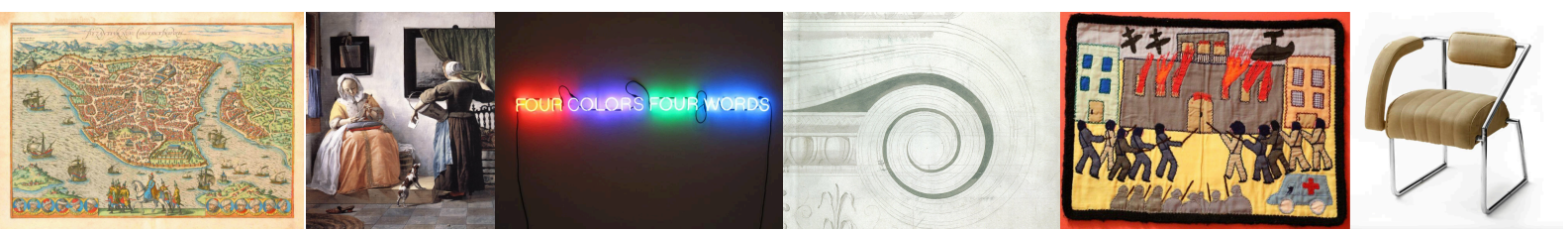
# UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy

## Scoil Stair na hEalaíne agus an Pholasaí Chultúrtha UCD

### Information for Stage 3 and 4 Art History Students

#### 2024/25

[www.ucd.ie/arhistory](http://www.ucd.ie/arhistory)



The information presented here outlines the modules available to Stage 3 Joint Major Art History students (DN520), and those on the four-year BA Humanities Classics, Art History & Archaeology programme (Stage 3 & 4), and students who are taking Art History as a Minor. Joint Major Art History students must take the core module, **AH30010** *Writings on Art*. Students on this programme also register to **two** 10 credit seminar modules (one in each of the Autumn and Spring trimesters) in order to achieve the minimum 25 credits required for a Joint Major in Art History at this stage. Students may also use their elective options to take further 5 credit Stage 3 Art History option modules.

The aim of Stage 3 modules is to further deepen and enrich students' art historical knowledge, allowing them to delve into complex issues of art historiography. Students will benefit from more challenging modules on specialised subjects with a greater emphasis on small-group learning and seminar work. Field trips and site visits are also a prominent feature of many modules and a very high level of participation and engagement is expected.

**Stage 3 Coordinator:** With regard to general problems concerning written work and specific course material, students should consult the relevant module coordinator. However, the **Stage 3 coordinator** Assoc. Prof. John Loughman (Office J011) is a point of contact for students experiencing more serious difficulties impacting their overall studies.

#### AUTUMN TRIMESTER

**AH30010** *Writings on Art* (5 Credit Core: Stage 3 Art History Joint Majors & Stage 4 Classics, Art History, Archaeology students)

**AH30590** *Women and Modern Architecture* (10 credit seminar)

**AH30630** *Genre in the Age of Vermeer* (10 credit seminar)

#### SPRING TRIMESTER

**AH30600** *From Constantinople to Istanbul: Art, Faith, Politics* (10 credit seminar)

**AH30650** *Art/ Resistance/ Activism* (10 credit seminar)

**AH30540** *Georgian Dublin* (5 credit option)

**AH30080** *Dissertation* (5 credit option)

**AH30010** *Writings on Art* (5 Credit Core)

Dr Aleksandra Gajowy

This module provides an overview of some of the principal trends in writing on art from the pre-modern to the present day. It thus builds upon the thematic modules undertaken in Levels 1 and 2, enabling students to place their cumulative experience in a methodological framework. The course develops students' understanding of art history as a discipline while importantly positioning it in dialogue with diverse approaches and methods to underscore the interdisciplinary nature of the field. Topics include formalism, connoisseurship, feminism, queer theory, and decoloniality. The module aims to provide students with a theoretical and critical context for their final-year study of art history and to aid them in identifying the ideas that inform their own approaches to the subject. It attunes students to current and emerging approaches to art history.

**AH30630** *Genre in the Age of Vermeer* (10 Credit Seminar)

Assoc. Prof. John Loughman

Johannes Vermeer has become a pivotal figure in the Western European art tradition. This is largely due to the hushed solitude and enigmatic themes of his paintings, which seem to give a glimpse of social practices and material culture in the Dutch "Golden Age". The module seeks to interrogate some of our preconceptions of Vermeer and his work and to situate him fully within the branch of painting that became his speciality - genre art. Despite its low ranking in the academic hierarchy of subject matter, these scenes of everyday life were painted in abundant numbers and widely appreciated. While we might regard genre paintings today as realistic and comprehensive in their scope, artists manipulated reality and depicted rather a restricted range of characters and

situations. Lectures will focus on key practitioners, groups of related artists such as the Leiden "fine painters" and the Utrecht Caravaggisti, as well as socio-economic and contextual themes. Issues to be explored include contemporary reception and interpretation, the role of the art market in the production of paintings, and the extent to which these engaging, quotidian images are reflective of actual domestic practices in the Dutch Republic of the seventeenth century. We will also make extensive use of the National Gallery of Ireland's exemplary collection of Netherlandish art.

**AH30590 Women and Modern Architecture** (10 Credit Seminar)

Prof. Kathleen James-Chakraborty

Beginning in the middle of the nineteenth century, the Arts and Crafts Movement provided women with the means to express themselves artistically while earning a respectable livelihood. This module will address the ways in which women have engaged innovative architecture and design ever since, whether as professional architects and designers or as clients, makers, tastemakers, and users. Among the women whose work will be addressed are Gertrude Jekyll, Margaret MacDonald Mackintosh, Eileen Gray, Jane Drew, Denise Scott Brown, Zaha Hadid, and Grafton Architects. Feminist approaches toward the writing of the history of modern architecture and design will also be explored, alongside considerations of how women were able to build careers in these fields and also what constrained or hindered them.

**AH30600 From Constantinople to Istanbul: Art, Faith, Politics** (10 Credit Seminar)

Dr Sean Leatherbury

From its ancient beginnings as the town of Byzantion, the city now known as Istanbul has captured the collective imagination of many over the centuries. This module examines the art and the built environment of the city, from its expansion in the Roman period, to its re-foundation as the Byzantine capital Constantinople, to its Ottoman transformation into modern Istanbul. As different groups—Byzantines, Crusaders, Ottomans—took control of the city, they shaped its architecture to proclaim the power and grandeur of their cultures and religions, commissioning magnificent monuments such as the church of Hagia Sophia, the Süleymaniye Mosque, and Topkapi Palace, as well as icon paintings, reliquaries, and manuscripts. The module will allow students to engage with archaeological and literary evidence, bringing to life lost buildings such as the Great Palace and the Church of the Holy Apostles. When possible, class field trips to local collections will allow students to see firsthand objects associated with the city.

**AH30650 Art/ Resistance/ Activism** (10 Credit Seminar)

Dr Aleksandra Gajowy

What is political art? How have art and visual cultures been employed as strategies of protest across the globe? Does art have the potential to enact social change? Looking at some possible answers to these questions, this module will look at cultures of protest, resistance, and activism, through an art-historical lens. We will explore the ways in which art-making, curating, and exhibiting since the early twentieth century until today have engaged with diverse struggles for social justice across cultures, identities, and geographies. We will look at different strategies and mediums to investigate how artists in diverse social, historical, and political settings have interpreted and responded to experiences of discrimination, disenfranchisement, violence, political ineptitude, and silencing. We will examine how, through art-making and exhibitions, artists have brought communities together, created safe spaces for vulnerable and marginalised peoples, enacted tangible political change, and critiqued status quo. This module at its core aims to decolonise art-historical narratives of the canon, the centrality of Western Anglophone narratives, and the teleological readings of Euro-American modernism.

**AH30540 Georgian Dublin** (5 Credit Option)

Assoc. Prof. Conor Lucey

The Georgian era, the period between 1714 and 1830, is arguably the golden age of architecture in Dublin. Following the turbulent decades of the seventeenth century, the political stability of the eighteenth century, coupled with a burgeoning economy and a rising population, fostered a renaissance in the cultural life of the city: by 1800, it was the eighth largest city in Europe and, after London, the second largest city in the British Atlantic world. Focusing on the key public buildings that loudly announced the new Protestant Ascendancy (including the Parliament House and Trinity College), on the design and construction of the city's terraced houses and formal garden squares (from St Stephen's Green to Fitzwilliam Square), and on the celebrated and unparalleled richness of the city's domestic interiors (specifically plasterwork decoration), this course will consider how the shape of the modern city was created in response to both private and public interests.

**AH30080 Dissertation** (5 Credit Option)

Assoc. Prof. Fiona Smyth

This module is intended for advanced final-year Joint Major Art History students. It involves researching and writing a dissertation of 4,000 -6,000 words under the supervision of one of the teaching staff. The topic will be agreed between the student and the supervisor, and should be constructed around an argument and be realisable with the limited timeframe of the trimester. Unlike other undergraduate modules, students taking this module are expected to work for the most part independently and to demonstrate initiative in developing their topic. The dissertation is an exercise which will help to develop essential skills, including the study of written and visual sources, and the ability to present arguments cogently and to summarise findings in a coherent manner. There will be a small number of introductory classes.