**HAA1025  
The History and Ethics of Collecting**  
Professors Christopher Nygren   
Mondays through Thursday, XX-YY (110 minutes per session), Location:

Drop-in Hours:

**Course Description:**  
Spanning art, archeology, and material culture from the ancient world to the present day, this course explores the tensions between private property and public heritage that shape the history of collecting. Subjects will include the destruction of cultural artifacts, booty and looting in times of war, cabinets of curiosity, private collecting, repatriation and the ethics of public collections. Students will encounter historical, anthropological, and art historical approaches to these issues.

**Course Rationale and Learning Objectives:**  
Students will be expected to understand and evaluate the histories and critiques of collections and collectors covered in the course, developing and defending positions regarding the purpose, processes, and ethics of collecting. Students will apply the material covered in the class to their own writing. There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Evaluation**

* This course will employ “specs” grading, meaning that all assignments will be graded on a complete / incomplete basis. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of “complete” assignments that a student submits. The grade scale will be explained in detail in the official course syllabus.

**SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**

May 6: Introduction to collecting and Rome as Text (classroom)

May 7: Site Visit: Roman Forums

May 8: Museum as Text (classroom)

May 9: Site Visit, Capitoline Museums

**Week 2**

May 13: Provenance: Objects, Owners, and the Biography of Objects (classroom)

May 14: Site Visit: Vatican Museums (ancient collections)

May 15: Displaying Antiquity (classroom)

May 16: Palazzo Massimo and Museo dell’arte Salvata

**Week 3**

May 20: Medieval Treasuries – relics etc.

May 21: Site Visit: S. M. Maggiore, S. John Lateran

May 22: Attribution and Authenticity

May 23: Site Visit: Doria Pamphilij

**Week 4**

May 27: Curiosities

May 28: Site Visit: Capuchin Crypt at S. Maria della Concezione

May 29: Collecting the Self

May 30: Site Visit: Galleria Borghese

**Week 5**

June 3: Museums and National Identity

June 4: Site Visit: Vittoriana

June 5: Collecting the Other

June 6: Site Visit: Vatican Museums (Ethnological Museum, *Anima Mundi*)

**Week 6**

June 10: Repatriation and Restitution

Jun 11: Site Visit: Museum of Civilizations (EUR)

June 12: Cultural Property, Armed Conflict, and Rapid Response Collecting

June 13: Site Visit - MAXXI