

CIMS3965 / ARTH3965

Professor Peter Decherney + Professor Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw

Tuesday, 12-2:59pm

This course is taught regularly and takes up different case studies of collectors and collecting. In Fall 2024, we will undertake a semester-long study of the Neumann family of collectors. We will examine and contextualize the business they built starting in the 1920s, Valmor, that developed and sold cosmetics for African Americans. We will then look at the collection of modern and contemporary art that the family has developed over four generations. We will draw on archival material, visits with the Neumann family, and interviews with experts on collecting, the Neumanns, and related aspects of the history. Projects for the course will include research documents as well as multimedia presentations.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

- (a) Weekly Reading, several articles per week / Viewing films and programs
- (b) Individual Annotated Bibliography, seven sources, & In-class Presentation
- (c) Public writing (350–500-word summaries for website)
- (d) Group Final Projects
  - team 1) a virtual reality project
  - team 2) short film project

Trip to New York - date TBD - Participation Mandatory

**SYLLABUS (weekly topics)**

- (1) August 27: Introduction
- (2) September 3: Valmor / Filming
- (3) September 10: Morton and Rose as Collectors / Editing Workshop
  - NGA catalogues
  - Feigen on the Neumanns
- (4) September 17: Collecting Picasso / Intro to Agora
  - NGA catalogues

- (5) September 24: Guest: Jonathan Fineberg
- (6) October 1: Prep for Collection Visit
- (7) October 8: Trip Debrief
- (8) October 15: Present Annotated Bibliographies
- (9) October 22: Begin Group Projects
- (10) October 29: Group Work
- (11) November 5: Group Work / Homecoming Prep
- (12) November 12 + 16: Homecoming Weekend Event
- (13) November 19: Present Rough Projects
- (14) November 26: Thanksgiving - No Class
- (15) December 3: Present Revised Projects
- (16) December 9: Presentations continue