COURSE DESCRIPTION
This seminar examines European collections and collecting practices during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It explores the ways natural specimens, scientific instruments, ethnographic artifacts, antiquities, and works of art were circulated, acquired, displayed, and documented by collectors from Rome to Copenhagen. We shall consider how collections were used and understood in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as well as their political, social, cultural, and scientific significance.

The study of early modern collections has expanded rapidly over the past two decades. Scholars have sought to better understand the consequences of early modern collecting, particularly in terms of their role in the history of art, the history of science, and the history of cross-cultural exchange. This seminar seeks to help students to develop a critical understanding of the relationship between collections, political power, the global economy, European self-definition, and European colonization. The approach will be comparative, drawing on collections both north and south of the Alps. The meetings will be organized thematically ranging in topics from the collection of New World artifacts by Italian natural philosophers to the collection of German automata by Holy Roman Emperors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The success of the course depends upon an engaged and lively group dynamic. For this reason, attendance, participation, and completion of the reading assignments are crucial. The other major requirements for the seminar are oral presentations, and a final research paper (10 to 12 pages) on a topic of relevance to the course.

ORAL ASSIGNMENTS (50% of final grade)
Active Participation in seminar discussion (15%)

Leading Discussion: (20%)
Each week a pair of students will act as discussion leaders. The pair of students will discuss the readings with each other prior to meeting with the professor on the Monday before their seminar presentation. (To be clear: the meeting will take place one week before the pair of students will act as discussion leaders.) At this meeting the students, with the guidance of the professor, will develop a list of questions related to the readings. These questions will serve both as a guide to the reading assignment for the other seminar participants as well as discussion topics during the week the pair of students act as discussion leaders. The questions will be posted to Blackboard on the Tuesday before the seminar meets.
Presentation of Research Topic: (15%)
On **Monday, October 15, 2012** each student will be responsible for briefly (5 minutes) presenting the topic of their research, the central question that drives their research, and summarize the state of the literature.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS** (50% of final grade)

Abstract: (10%)
Students will submit a one-page abstract of their final paper on **Monday, October 22, 2012**.

Annotated Bibliography: (10%)
Students will submit a five-page annotated bibliography on **Monday, October 22, 2012**. The annotated bibliography cannot include literature from the reading assignments.

Final Paper: (30%)
Students will submit a 10 to 12 page research paper, which includes footnotes (according Chicago Manual of Style guidelines) and images with captions, on **Monday, December 17, 2012**. The page count does not include images. There must be 10 to 12 pages of text, and the paper must be written in 12-point Times New Roman. Footnotes must be in 10-point Times New Roman.

**READINGS**

The following books will be available for purchase at the campus bookstore:


All reading assignments that are not pulled from the texts above will be posted on the seminar’s Blackboard site.

**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

I. Week 1 (08/27/2012): **INTRODUCTION TO SEMINAR**
   - Discussion of seminar mechanics; introductory lecture.

II. Week 2 (09/10/2012): **EARLY MODERN COLLECTIONS**


III. Week 3 (09/17/2012): Inventories


IV. Week 4 (09/24/2012): Networks of Circulation


V. Week 5 (10/01/2012): Collecting Antiquities


VI. WEEK 6 (10/08/2012): COLLECTING PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

VII. WEEK 7 (10/15/2012): COLLECTING WORKS ON PAPER (**PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH TOPIC.)

VIII. WEEK 8 (10/22/2012): COLLECTING NATURALIA (SEMINAR HELD IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS) (**ABSTRACT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE.)

IX. WEEK 9 (10/29/2012): COLLECTING EXOTICA AND ETHNOGRAPHICA
• Florike Egmond and Peter Mason, “‘These are People Who eat raw Fish:’ Contours of the Ethnographic Imagination in the sixteenth century,” Viator, 31 (2000): 311-360.

X. WEEK 10 (11/05/2012): COLLECTING WONDROUS OBJECTS

XI. WEEK 11 (11/12/2012): THE COLLECTOR

XII. WEEK 12 (11/19/2012): COLLECTING: MOTIVATIONS AND THEORIES (PART A)

XIII. WEEK 13 (11/26/2012): COLLECTING: MOTIVATIONS AND THEORIES (PART B)

XIV. WEEK 14 (12/03/2012): THE FIRST MUSEUMS

XV. **WEEK 15 (12/17/2012): ****FINAL PAPERS DUE**