

Art History Program (ARTH)

Riccardi, *Coordinator*

The Art History program offers a BA in Art History to majors and also serves as part of the foundation program for other Department of Art majors. It also provides a minor for students majoring in art or any other field. Art history is a scholarly, academic discipline, and its study sharpens critical thinking and strengthens both writing and analytical skills. The program offers varied and exciting courses that include topics such as Non-Western Art, Women Artists in History, and various period studies. Students in a wide variety of majors may also use selected art history courses to fulfill liberal learning requirements. Students in the Honors Program further have the opportunity to combine the history of art with other disciplines such as history or literature in dynamic courses such as Paris Between the Wars, Cities and Sanctuaries of Greece and Rome, and The Holocaust in Art and Literature.

Art History Major

The major provides students with both broad introductory courses and specialized geographical and chronological studies emphasizing theory, methodology, and historiography of the discipline through a curriculum designed to provide both a well-rounded foundation and advanced study in the discipline. The program utilizes the varied resources of museums and collections in the area through field trips and specialized object research. In order to promote cross-cultural exchange and exposure to art outside the area, students enrolled in the Art History major are required to study abroad for at least a summer and preferably a semester. The curriculum culminates in a senior capstone experience that allows Art History majors to develop an original research project and to demonstrate their critical thinking skills.

Art History

Course Requirements

Major core: (one course unit each)

AAH 105/Art History I
AAH 106/Art History II
AAH 105/Introduction to Non-Western Art
AAH XXX/One course exploring women artists in history
AAH XXX/Art History Senior Seminar

Major Options/Concentrations (one course unit each unless otherwise indicated)

Ancient or Medieval Art (300 level or above)
Renaissance or Baroque Art (300 level or above)
Modern or American Art (300 level or above)
Fine Art course
2 Art History courses (300 level or above)

Recommended First Year Program of Study

First Semester

FSP 101/First Seminar	1 course unit
AAH 105/Art History I: Caves to Cathedrals	1 course unit
Foreign Language (if not exempted)	1 course unit
Liberal Learning	1 course unit

Second Semester

AAH 106/Art History II: Renaissance to Revolution	1 course unit
WRI 102/Academic Writing (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
Foreign Language (if not exempted)	1 course unit
Liberal Learning	1 course unit
Total for year	8 course units

**It is recommended that students exempted from these courses take another liberal learning course.*

Art History Minor

Requires permission of the department chair. The minor consists of 5 course units, and may count no more than 1 course also taken for the major.

Art History Minor Program of Study for Art Majors:

The minor consists of five courses as follows:

Required—3 courses total

AAH 105/Art History I: Caves to Cathedrals
AAH 106/Art History II: Renaissance to Revolution
Women Artists in History

Options—2 courses total

Ancient, Medieval, or Non-Western Art History, 300 level or above
Renaissance, Baroque, 19th-Century Art, Art of the United States, or Contemporary Art History, 300 level or above

Total required **5 course units**

Art History Minor Program of Study for non-Art majors

The minor consists of five course units as follows:

Required—2 courses total

AAH 105/Art History I: Caves to Cathedrals
AAH 106/Art History II: Renaissance to Revolution

Options—3 courses total

Ancient, Medieval, or Non-Western Art History, 300 level or above
Renaissance, Baroque, 19th-Century Art, Art of the United States, or Contemporary Art History, 300 level or above
Introduction to Non-Western Art or Women Artists

ART HISTORY COURSES

AAH 105/Art History I: Caves to Cathedrals

1 course unit

(every semester)

An introduction to the history of art through the examination of major monuments of western architecture, painting, sculpture, and minor arts from prehistoric times to the beginning of the Renaissance. Emphasis is placed on art created for or by the dominant cultural centers of civilizations falling within this timeframe. For art history majors and minors, studio art majors, and students seeking to fulfill goals of the Liberal Learning program as one of the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts courses.

AAH 106/Art History II: Renaissance to Revolution

1 course unit

(every semester)

An introduction to the history of art through the examination of major monuments of Western architecture, painting, sculpture, and minor arts from the beginning of the Renaissance to the 1848 French Revolution. Emphasis is placed on art created for or by the dominant cultural centers of civilizations falling within this timeframe. For art history majors and minors, studio art majors, and students seeking to fulfill goals of the Liberal Learning program as one of the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts courses.

AAH 145/Introduction to Non-Western Art

1 course unit

(every semester)

An introduction to the art of non-Western civilizations through a comparison of the expressive and applied arts as reflections of cultural traditions. Slide lectures will be supplemented with discussions, library research, and museum field trips. Field trips may be required at student expense.

AAH 250/Contemporary Art

1 course unit

(every semester)

The history, criticism, and theory of contemporary art from the 1940s to the present. Course coverage begins with the shift of the center of the art world from Paris and Berlin to New York City in the post-war era. All major movements of the latter 20th Century will be examined, including Abstract Expressionism, Pop, Minimalism, Conceptual Art, Postmodernism, Feminism, Neo-Expressionism, and developments in digital art. Field trips required. For art studio majors.

AAH 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminisms, and Film

1 course unit

(every semester)

(same as WGS 305 and COM 343)

An exploration of the impact of feminism on film theory, criticism, and production. Emphasis is placed on issues of representation, spectatorship, questions of ethnicity, and hybrid sexualities. Hollywood, independent films, and new media forms will be investigated through screenings and readings.

AAH 344/Art of the Renaissance

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An investigation of the art of the Renaissance, beginning with Giotto and continuing through the Mannerist phases of the late 16th century in Italy. The art of the northern Renaissance between 1400 and 1600 will be included. Field trips may be required at student expense.

AAH 347/19th-Century Art

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An historical survey of the art of the 19th century from the rise of Neoclassicism through Romanticism and Realism to Postimpressionism and Art Nouveau. Field trips may be required at student expense.

AAH 348/Art of the United States**1 course unit**

(occasionally)

An historical survey of the development of an American style in the visual arts, including painting, sculpture, and architecture from colonial times to the present. Field trips may be required at student expense.

AAH 370/Topics in Art History**1 course unit**

(occasionally)

This course may be offered as a lecture and/or seminar. Topics in Art History focuses on a different topic with each offering (e.g., current trends in art history, special offerings). May be repeated as topic changes.

AAH 391/Independent Study in Art History**1-2 course units**

(every semester)

(May not be taken as a substitute for any other course)

Prerequisites: Enrollment as an upper division art history major or minor; student must have taken a minimum of three courses in art history. These courses must be completed with a 3.33 average. Pre-registration with signed approval of an art history faculty sponsor and of department chair required. Independent study is for students engaged in advanced work only, and is an opportunity to develop personal interests and strengths within the major field. Emphasis is on individual, self-guided work under the supervision of a faculty adviser and/or committee. May be repeated.

AAH 393/Independent Research in Art History**1-2 course units**

(every semester)

(May not be taken as a substitute for any other course)

Prerequisites: Enrollment as an upper division art history major or minor; student must have taken a minimum of three courses in art history. These courses must be completed with a 3.33 average in the area of study. Pre-registration with signed approval of an art faculty sponsor and of department chair required. Independent study is for students engaged in advanced work only, and is an opportunity to develop personal interests and strengths within the major field. Emphasis is on individual, self-guided work under the supervision of a faculty adviser and/or committee. May be repeated.

AAH 399/Internship**1-2 course units**

(every semester)

Prerequisites: Enrollment is limited to upper division program majors or minors with at least a 3.0 GPA in that program. See Internship Application Form for individual program requirements and details.

Pre-registration with Internship Application Form and signed approval of the program coordinator, the department chair, and an art faculty sponsor.

The primary purpose of the college-level internship experience is the development of occupational or professional competence in the actual occupation setting after the student's education has been completed. Other purposes (income, career exploration, learning-by-doing, on-the-job training, etc.) cannot be the primary purpose, though they may occur as a secondary result of the internship experience.

See also [Art Degree Programs](#)