

ART HISTORY, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

Art History studies the changing visual expression of values, beliefs and experiences across diverse cultures and over time. It provides training in historical, social and aesthetic understanding, critical thinking, scholarly research, and lucid, thoughtful analysis and writing. More than any other discipline art history sharpens its students' visual acuity and deepens their visual literacy. In so doing, it prepares them to face the increasingly complex visual world we find ourselves in today.

The Program

The major begins with a series of courses that surveys major landmarks in the history of visual culture, art and architecture in Asia, Europe, and the United States. More advanced lecture courses and seminars focus on particularly important periods and issues. Students are encouraged to personalize their training with internships, independent study, and focused upper division study. Top students considering graduate study are encouraged to engage in more advance study by pursuing a senior honors thesis.

Career Options

A major in Art History develops critical thinking and the integration of research, interpretation and understanding. It provides an excellent liberal arts basis for professions as far ranging as advertising, law, medicine, politics and business. The major prepares students for advanced study in Art History, Architecture, Museum Studies and Cultural Studies. It also serves as the foundation for careers in teaching, arts, administration, museums, galleries, historic preservation, art libraries, publishing, journalism, advertising, art conservation, and art investment. As the world becomes increasingly flooded with images, the critical visual literacy gained through the study of art history becomes more important for a wide variety of careers.

Honors Program

The Honors Program in Art History is encouraged for Art History majors who are considering attending graduate school. To be eligible for the program, a student must have completed at least 135 units and have a grade point average of 3.500 GPA overall, consent of both the prospective thesis advisor, who must be a member of the Art History faculty and the major advisor. In addition to meeting the standard major requirements, the honors student completes one additional undergraduate seminar (course 100 or 190A-L), researches and writes an honors thesis (courses 194HA and 194HB), supervised by the prospective thesis advisor. Students participating in this Program are candidates for Departmental recommendation for graduation with High or Highest Honors. See Academic Information (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/academic-information-policies-regulations/honors-prizes/>), Letters & Science honors section (<https://lettersandscience.ucdavis.edu/deans-honors-list-and-graduation-honors/>), and consult Art History (<http://arthistory.ucdavis.edu/>).

Teaching Credential Subject Representative

Department Chairperson; see the Teacher Education program (<https://education.ucdavis.edu/teaching-credentialma/>).

Graduate Study

The Program in Art History offers studies leading to the Master of Arts degree in History of Art as preparation for further graduate study or professional work. For more information, contact the Graduate Staff Advisor at 530-752-8710, or see Art History (<http://arthistory.ucdavis.edu/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Art History Bachelor of Arts major is 60.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
Choose four:		16-17
AHI 001A	Ancient Mediterranean Art	
AHI 001B	Medieval & Renaissance Art	
AHI 001C	Baroque to Modern Art	
AHI 001D	Arts of Asia	
or AHI 001DY DI:		
AHI 001E	Islamic Art & Architecture	
AHI 005	Understanding Visual Culture	
AHI 025	Understanding Architecture	
Any lower division Art Studio (ART) course except ART 030:		4
ART 001	Introduction to Studio Art Practice	
ART 002	Beginning Drawing	
ART 005	Beginning Sculpture	
ART 007	Beginning Painting	
ART 008	Beginning Ceramic Sculpture	
ART 009	Beginning Photography	
ART 010D	Contemporary Art Appreciation	
ART 010F	Contemporary Art Appreciation	
ART 011	Beginning Printmaking	
ART 012	Beginning Video	
ART 024	Introduction to Experimental Video & Film	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		20-21
Depth Subject Matter		
<i>Distribution Areas</i>		
Choose six from at least five of the following areas:		24
(1) The Ancient World		
AHI 152	Arts of Oceania & Prehistoric Europe	
AHI/CLA 172A	Early Greek Art & Architecture	
AHI/CLA 172B	Later Greek Art & Architecture	
AHI/CLA 173	Roman Art & Architecture	
AHI/CLA 175	Architecture & Urbanism in Mediterranean Antiquity	
(2) Asia		
AHI/RST 154	The Hindu Temple	
AHI 157/RST 171	Buddhist Art	
AHI 163A	Early Chinese Art	
AHI 163B	Chinese Painting	
AHI 163C	Early Modern Chinese Painting	

AHI 163D	Art from China 1900 to the Present
AHI 164	The Arts of Japan
(3) The Middle Ages to 1700	
AHI 155	The Islamic City
AHI 156	Arts of the Islamic Book
AHI 178B	Early Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture
AHI 178C	High & Late Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture
AHI 179B	Baroque Art
(4) Western Art 1700 to 1900	
AHI 130	Landscape, Nature, & Art
AHI 168	Great Cities
AHI 182	British Art & Culture (1750-1900)
AHI 183A	Art in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850
AHI 183B	Impressionism & Post-Impressionism: Manet to 1900
AHI 188C	American Art to 1910
(5) World Art 20 th Century to the Present	
AHI 122	Sex & Space
AHI 163D	Art from China 1900 to the Present
AHI 183C	Modernism in France, 1880-1940
AHI 185	Avant-Gardism & its Aftermath, 1917-1960
AHI 186	Contemporary Art 1960-Present
AHI 189	Photography in History
(6) Art & Issues Across Chronologies	
AHI 110	Cultural History of Museums
AHI/HMR 120A	Art, Architecture, & Human Rights
AHI 121	Politics of Public Art
AHI 123	The Museum in the Age of Spectacle
AHI 181	Latin American Art & Architecture
AHI 188A	The American Home
<i>Undergraduate Seminar in Art History, (AHI 190A-AHI 190L)</i>	
Choose one:	4
AHI 190A	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Mediterranean Antiquity
AHI 190B	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Medieval
AHI 190C	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Renaissance
AHI 190D	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: American
AHI 190E	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Gendering of Culture
AHI 190F	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Chinese
AHI 190G	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Japanese
AHI 190H	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Modern-Contemporary
AHI 190I	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: 17th-18th Century
AHI 190J	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Islamic

AHI 190K	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: 19th Century
AHI 190L	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Cultures of Collecting
<i>Electives</i>	
Choose any three additional AHI upper division courses or seminars.	12
Art History (AHI) courses. (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ahi/)	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal	40
Emphasis; choose one to reach total units:	
Architectural History (p. 2)	60
Museum Studies (p. 2)	72-73

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Emphasis in Architectural History

Emphasis in Architectural History follows the same requirements as for the Art History major above, applying at least six of the following to their respective required areas or as electives:

Code	Title	Units
Choose at least six of the following:		24
AHI 025	Understanding Architecture	
AHI 110	Cultural History of Museums	
AHI/HMR 120A	Art, Architecture, & Human Rights	
AHI 122	Sex & Space	
AHI 123	The Museum in the Age of Spectacle	
AHI 152	Arts of Oceania & Prehistoric Europe	
AHI/RST 154	The Hindu Temple	
AHI 155	The Islamic City	
AHI 163A	Early Chinese Art	
AHI 168	Great Cities	
AHI/CLA 172A	Early Greek Art & Architecture	
AHI/CLA 172B	Later Greek Art & Architecture	
AHI/CLA 173	Roman Art & Architecture	
AHI/CLA 175	Architecture & Urbanism in Mediterranean Antiquity	
AHI 178B	Early Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture	
AHI 178C	High & Late Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture	
AHI 181	Latin American Art & Architecture	
AHI 184	20th-Century Architecture	
AHI 187	Contemporary Architecture	
AHI 188A	The American Home	
AHI 188B	Architecture of the United States	
Total Units		24

Fulfilling the undergraduate seminar requirement (AHI 192) through an architectural topic is highly recommended.

Emphasis in Museum Studies

The Emphasis in Museum Studies consists of five upper-division courses (20 units) incorporated into the 60-unit major in Art History. Two core

courses for the Emphasis in Museum Studies (8 units) take the place of upper division electives in the major. Three additional electives (12 units) are chosen to complete the Emphasis. Beyond these requirements, one or more internships (AHI 192) are highly recommended.

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Preparatory Subject Matter		
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AHI 001D	Arts of Asia	
or AHI 001DY DI:		
AHI 001E	Islamic Art & Architecture	
AHI 005	Understanding Visual Culture	
AHI 025	Understanding Architecture	
Any lower division Art Studio (ART) course except ART 030:		4
Art Studio (ART) courses. (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/art/)		
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		20-21
Depth Subject Matter		
Distribution Areas; same as for the Art History Major, above.		24
Undergraduate Seminar; same as for the Art History Major above.		4
Elective; one additional AHI upper-division course or seminar.		4
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		32
Depth Subject Matter—Museum Studies		
<i>Five courses not already counted toward the Major.</i>		
Required Courses:		8
AHI 101	Understanding Museum Practices	
AHI 110	Cultural History of Museums	
Required Courses:		12
AHI 102	Exhibition Practicum	
AHI/HMR 120A	Art, Architecture, & Human Rights	
AHI 123	The Museum in the Age of Spectacle	
AHI 190L	Undergraduate Seminar in Art History: Cultures of Collecting	
ANT 186A	(Discontinued for summer 2025) **	
ARE 113	Fundamentals of Marketing Management	
CMN 131	Strategic Communication in Public Relations	
or CMN 131V Strategic Communication in Public Relations		
DES 185	Exhibition Design	
DES 187	Narrative Environments	
DRA 124A	Principles of Theatrical Design: Scenery	
DRA 124C	Principles of Theatrical Design: Lighting	
UWP 102J	Writing in the Disciplines: Fine Arts	
UWP 112A	Introduction to Professional Editing	
Depth Subject Matter—Museum Studies Subtotal		20
Total Units		72-73

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.