

ART HISTORY

UC DAVIS

CURRICULUM & COURSE ADVICE

Students considering a major in Art History ask about requirements for the major, what courses to take, and how to prepare for a career after graduation. We've collected here our best advice, as well as answers to students' most frequently-asked questions about the major. We hope that a handy source of information, all in one place, will streamline and demystify the advising process.

How We Assign Credits

On the last page you'll find the checklist for the current Art History major, also downloadable from the Art History website, under "Academics / Undergraduate Program," which entering majors peruse and which graduating majors fill out in earnest. Because many of our majors are transfer students who have taken one or more Art History courses in junior college, the assigning of pre-existing course credits is a frequent question. Since every student's case is different, we encourage you to discuss yours with the major advisor.

In general, our policy is to grant credit for a college course in Art History taken elsewhere by matching it to the closest area in our requirements. In accepting a lower-division junior college course that has received transfer credit, the lack of a transfer agreement pre-identifying a matching UCD course is not a barrier. We do stipulate that courses must appear on your UCD transcript and they must be Art History. If a transfer course is labeled as something else, "Fine Arts," for instance, we decide based on its content.

The same calculation applies to

study abroad. An upper-division summer session course taken in Spain on Velazquez we'll credit toward your "Art before 1700" requirement even though we don't offer a course on Velazquez here. We encourage our majors studying abroad to expand their horizons through course topics in areas we don't regularly teach.

Finally, we require a minimum of one 4-unit course in art practice, which is normally fulfilled through the offerings in Art Studio. We strongly encourage students to take more than one studio course, to understand the practice of different artistic media.

Undergraduate Honors Program in Art History

Art History's Honors Program, limited to majors, focuses on senior-year work and a thesis written under the direction of a member of the Art History faculty. The Honors Program is encouraged for majors considering graduate study in Art History. Interested students who have at least a 3.6 GPA in the major and a 3.5 GPA overall are encouraged to consult with the Undergraduate Advisor during their junior year.

The Honors Program in Art History requires three courses (12 units) in addition to the 60 units required for the major—a second seminar (AHI100, 200A, or 190A-L) and two sequential independent studies, AHI 194HA and AHI 194HB (both 4 units and letter-graded), directed by the faculty member supervising the Honors thesis. The AHI 194HA allows background study, research, and production of a preliminary draft of the thesis. In AHI 194HB the student completes the draft and edits it; the

final research paper is normally 25-30 pages in length.

Majors completing the honors thesis are candidates for Departmental recommendation for graduation with High or Highest Honors. See the Academic Information chapter, Letters and Science Honors section, of the general catalog and consult the department Undergraduate Advisor for more information.

The University Honors Program is separate from Art History's honors program. UHP is open to freshmen by invitation and to second year students who maintain a 3.5 GPA or above. If interested, visit their office, Surge 3, Room 1350 or contact honors@ucdavis.edu

**Department of
Art and Art History**
arts.ucdavis.edu/art-history

For advising about the major or minor, contact

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107 Art Building

Advising appointments
Monday-Friday 1-4 p.m.

Schedule an appointment online:
appointments.ucdavis.edu

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Where We Post Information

All information about the program is posted on the Art History website, arts.ucdavis.edu/art-history. There, the Visual Resources Blog, Cropped (under "Resources") gives real-world context to art history. The "News & Events" section contains our current and past newsletters; these include profiles of students and faculty, and provide an excellent window into our program.

From time to time, majors receive announcements by email. The advising office (101 Art Building) supplies fliers on upcoming courses as soon as they are known.

We're on Social Media



#ucdavisarthistory



@Art_History_UCD



@UCDavisArtHistory

Minor in Art History

Students in a variety of majors find they benefit from an Art History minor. Because upper-division courses in Art History have no prerequisites, our minor conveniently fits into many academic plans.

Five upper-division Art History courses (20 units) constitute the minor. Select four courses from any four of these six areas: (1) the ancient world, (2) Asian art, (3) the Middle Ages to 1700, (4) Western art 1700 to 1900, (5) World art from 1900 to the present, (6) art and issues across chronologies. Any fifth upper-division Art History course completes the minor. Online courses, internships, independent study, and courses in other disciplines are not applicable to the AHI minor.

A checklist is available at the Arts Advising Office, 101 Art Building.

Architectural Emphasis in Art History

The Art History major offers a formal Emphasis in Architectural History. The Emphasis, which appears on the transcript, provides a way to maximize exposure to architectural history, useful for students considering careers related to architecture. The Emphasis has the same number of units and distribution areas as the major; the difference is that at least six courses deal with history of the built

environment. These include such varied offerings as AHI 25 "Understanding Architecture," AHI 110 "Cultural History of Museums," AHI 120A "Art, Architecture and Human Rights," AHI 122 "Sex and Space," and AHI 188A "The American Home." Our majors are welcome to—and usually do—intermix courses on architectural topics as they pursue their Art History studies.

Preparation for Advanced Degrees

The Ph.D. in Art History

A Ph.D. is necessary for college and university teaching and for curatorial positions in major museums. It is necessary to have a strong undergraduate background in Art History (meaning more than the minimum number of upper-division and seminar courses). Ph.D. programs want candidates who fit the interests of their faculty, who have highly developed writing, research, and analytical skills, who have graduated with honors, written a senior honors thesis, and have reading knowledge of two foreign languages, depending on their prospective field (e.g. Latin and Greek for Classical art; French and German for Modern art).

M. A. Programs

Masters' programs in Art History and Museum Studies range from 1-2 years and prepare graduates for jobs in museums, especially in education, registration, development, and in commercial and non-profit galleries. Teaching Art History in community colleges requires an M.A. in Art History. Art History M.A. programs also prepare students to pursue Ph.Ds. Study of Art History, a good academic record, and an accomplished re-

search paper as a writing sample are standard requirements for such programs (including our own M.A. program in Art History).

Teaching Credential

In middle and high schools, Art History supports instruction in the creative practice of art. A double major or a minor in Art Studio creates the optimum training, along with a teacher-education credential. Most CSU campuses offer postgraduate teaching credential programs. UCD's School of Education offers a minor that allows students to complete prerequisites for the teaching credential program.

Master's in Architecture

Varied programs offer study in architectural preservation and other specialties. The M.Arch, the standard degree, is a three-year program for Liberal-Arts graduates. Most architecture schools require:

- Study of architectural history
- A year of Calculus
- A year of Physics (mechanics)
- Studio art (particularly drawing)
- Study of modern languages
- Study of social sciences
- Internship with an architect

UC Davis's Student Academic Success Center (SASC) offers pre-professional advising for those interested in the M.B.A., Law School, and Teacher Credential Programs, as workshops and as individual advising appointments.

Address: 111 South Hall Phone: 530-752-4475 Subscribe to a mailing list through their website: <http://success.ucdavis.edu/grad-prof/index.html>

Courses Relevant to Specific Career Paths

Working in an art gallery or community art center does not usually require an advanced degree but it demands versatility, including some knowledge of marketing, event-planning, book-keeping, installation, written interpretation, and production of reports. Consider supplementing an Art History major with

- AHI 401 Museum Training: Curatorial Principles
- AHI 402 Museum Training: Exhibition Methods
- ARE 113 Fundamentals of Marketing in Management (for non-majors)
- CMN 101 Communication Theories
- DES187 Narrative Environments
- DRA 124C Principles of Theatrical Design: Lighting
- MGT 11A Elementary Accounting
- PLS 21 Application of Computers

in Technology

- UWP 104A Business Writing (covers preparation of annual reports, project proposals, and grant applications—all frequently required writing in museums, galleries, and non-profit organizations)

If editing, publishing, or journalism interests you, we recommend

- UWP 112A Introduction to Professional Editing
- The University Writing Program Minor in Professional Writing
- Also, to hone your investigative and writing skills, look for courses that offer writing experience (WE) credit.

If law, foreign service, or social service interests you, consider

- The Minor in Human Rights

Suggested Courses in Related Fields

Below are courses in other departments that are especially relevant to a major in Art History. Most of them offer Minor programs as well.

Art Studio

Knowing how art is made greatly aids the study of Art History. Multiple courses in Art Studio are advantageous if you anticipate a career in art criticism, art galleries, or museum education.

Philosophy

Very useful to the study of Art History is knowledge of aesthetics, reasoning, history of philosophical thought

- PHI 1 Intro to Philosophy
- PHI 123 Aesthetics
- PHI 5 Critical Reasoning

Languages

Learning foreign languages is a great asset to studying Art History and majors often proceed to language study on campus or abroad. The language programs at UC Davis (Classics, Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Spanish) also offer useful culturally-focused courses.

Cultural Studies

Providing useful context for the study of Art History are the courses offered by the Cultural Studies programs, among them African/African-American Studies, American Studies, Asian-American Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Native American Studies, East Asian Studies, and Middle-Eastern/South Asian Studies.

Psychology

Highly recommended is an understanding of perception

- PSC 131 Perception

History

Courses about political, social, and intellectual history of the world are highly relevant to the history of art.

Anthropology

Like History, Anthropology is a closely allied field to Art History, in particular regarding methods for understanding early cultures.

Comparative Literature

Another closely allied field is Comparative Literature, which examines how themes and subjects are treated in

Internships

Internships in Art History do not count toward the major but may be applied as units toward graduation. We recommend substantive projects that will build skills. Some of the best internships are those that students themselves have created.

Internships are P/NP, variable in credit (1-12 units). Calculate 30 working hours per unit. To register, fill out the form available at the advising office Art Room 101, and submit it there to receive a CRN. Provide description of the project, site supervisor, and signature of an Art History faculty sponsor.

Required for completion are approval of your work from your site supervisor and an 8-10 page paper, which can be a report, journal, or writing accomplished for the project, submitted to your faculty sponsor at the end of the quarter for which you have registered.

A total of 12 units of internship credit can count toward your degree. You may register a not-for-credit internship for notation on your transcript through the Internship and Career Center (ICC). Requirements for these are the same as internships for credit, except for the manner in which you register. The ICC also lists internships on its database Aggie Job Link, along with advice on locating internships.

literature across cultures, just as Art History examines visual themes.

Writing Requirement

The Art History program does not require a specific course to satisfy the upper-division writing requirement. The University Writing Program offers a number of relevant course, depending on your needs and goals.

- UWP101 Advanced Composition (will help you write articulate, well-organized term papers)
- UWP 102C Historical Writing
- UWP 102J Writing in the Arts (recommended if your interests lean toward art studio, art criticism, or working with artists)

Art History Major Checklist on last page >>>>>>>>>

ART HISTORY MAJOR CHECKLIST - 60 UNITS

Use this form for both the Art History major and the optional Emphasis in Architectural History. The Art History major with **Emphasis in Architectural History** requires the same number of units as the major but applies any six of the courses in **bold italics** below.

LOWER-DIVISION COURSES — 20 UNITS

Four of the following lower-division courses in Art History (16 units)

AHI 1A Ancient Mediterranean

AHI 1D or 1DY Arts of Asia

AHI 5 Understanding Visual Culture

AHI 1B Medieval & Renaissance

AHI 1E Islamic Art & Architecture

AHI 25 Understanding Architecture

AHI 1C Baroque to Modern

One Art Studio practice course; ART 10, 30 excluded _____

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES — 40 UNITS

One course in each of the six distribution areas below (24 units). Three elective courses (12 units). One seminar (4 units). When necessary, course substitutions will be allowed with consent of the faculty major advisor.

Distribution area 1: The Ancient World

AHI 151 Arts of the Ancient New World

AHI 173 Roman Art & Architecture

AHI 172A Early Greek Art & Architecture

AHI 175 Architecture & Urbanism in Mediterranean Antiquity

Distribution area 2: Asia

AHI 154 The Hindu Temple

AHI 163B Chinese Painting

AHI 157 Buddhist Art

AHI 163C Early Modern Chinese Painting

AHI 163A Early Chinese Art

AHI 164 Arts of Japan

Distribution area 3: The Middle Ages to 1700

AHI 155 The Islamic City

AHI 178B Italian (Early) Renaissance

AHI 156 Arts of the Islamic Book

AHI 178C Italian (High) Renaissance

AHI 176D Art & Architecture of the Medieval Mediterranean

AHI 179B Baroque Art

Distribution area 4: Western Art 1700 to 1900

AHI 130 Landscape, Nature, and Art

AHI 183A Art in the Age of Revolution 1750-1850

AHI 168 Great Cities

AHI 183B Impressionism & Post-Impressionism

AHI 182 British Art and Culture 1750-1900

AHI 188C American Art to 1910

Distribution area 5: World Art, 20th Century to the Present

AHI 122 Sex and Space

AHI 185 Avant-Gardism and its Aftermath 1917-1960

AHI 163D Art from China 1900 to the Present

AHI 186 Contemporary Art 1960 to Present

AHI 183C Modernism in France

AHI 189 Photography in History

Distribution area 6: Art and Issues across Chronologies

AHI 110 Cultural History of Museums

AHI 123 Museums in the Age of Spectacle

AHI 120A Art, Architecture & Human Rights

AHI 181 Latin American Art & Architecture

AHI 121 Politics of Public Art

AHI 188A The American Home

AHI 123 Museums in the Age of Spectacle

Three upper-division electives (12 units) chosen from any upper-division Art History course:

Seminar AHI 190 (A-L) - one (4 units); topics vary each year _____

ADDITIONAL UPPER-DIVISION ART HISTORY COURSES APPLICABLE TO THE MAJOR:

AHI 148 Theory & Criticism Painting & Sculpture

AHI 176B Romanesque Art

AHI 188B Architecture in the US

AHI 150 Arts of Sub-Saharan Africa

AHI 176C Gothic Art

AHI 198 Directed Group Study

AHI 153 Hindu Gods and Symbols

AHI 177 Northern Renaissance Art

AHI 199 Individual Study

AHI 158 Popular Religious Art in India

AHI 184 Twentieth-Century Architecture

Additional seminar AHI 190 (A-L)

AHI 176A Early Christian & Byzantine Art

AHI 187 Contemporary Architecture

HONORS PROGRAM — 12 UNITS (in addition to the 60-unit major)

Requires 3.6 GPA in the major, 3.5 GPA overall, and permission of the faculty major advisor. The individual thesis advisor must be faculty in Art History. Students qualify by completing, in the senior year, either AHI 100 or a second undergraduate seminar AHI 190 (A-K), and 4 units each of the thesis research (AHI 194HA) and thesis writing (AHI 194HB). Thesis is read and graded by two Art History faculty. For more information, consult the AHI advisor and the Art History website, arts.ucdavis.edu/art_history/general-information/undergraduate-honors-program