

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 back page you'll find the checklist for the 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 the majority of students who sign up for the major have taken one or more Art History courses, 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 adviser. In general, our policy is to give credit in the major for previously taken courses in Art History, and we will match them to the closest area in our requirements. These courses must appear on your 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. An upper-division summer-session course taken in Spain on Velazquez we'll credit toward your "European Art before 1700" requirement even though we don't offer a course on Velazquez

ourselves. We encourage our majors who study abroad to take Art History courses in areas that we don't regularly teach as a way of expanding their horizons.

We grant lower-division credit for junior college courses in Art History that have received transfer credit; the lack of a transfer agreement with your junior college is not a barrier. If you enter with high school AP courses in Art History, we will help you determine a curriculum that makes the best use of your AP courses and credits.

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

Honors Work

Art History's Honors Program focuses on senior-year work—an honors 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. To be eligible, a student must have a grade point average of 3.5 in the major or consent of the major adviser. In addition to the standard major requirements, the honors student completes an 12 units of further work: an added seminar (AHI100, 200A, or 190A-L), a preparatory special study with the thesis advisor (AHI199), which ends with a preliminary thesis draft, and the thesis itself (AHI 194H). Students participating in this Program are candidates for Departmental recommendation for

graduation with High or Highest Honors. Students interested in writing an honors thesis should contact the faculty or staff adviser in spring quarter of junior year.

The University Honors Program is separate from Art History's honors program. UHP is open to freshmen by invitation and to enrolled students who maintain a 3.5 GPA or above. If interested, visit 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 in Art History, contact

Julie McGilvray
jmcgilvray@ucdavis.edu

107 Art Building

Monday-Friday:
Drop-in advising 9 am - 12 pm
and by appointment 1 pm-4 pm

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. The Visual Resources Blog, *Cropped* (under “Resources”) gives real-world context to art history. The *Newsletter* (under “News & Events”) reports on our activities, features profiles of recent graduates, and provides an excellent window into our program.

Majors receive email announcements of events. The advising office (101 Art Building) supplies handouts of upcoming courses as soon as they are known. Information about activities is also on Facebook.



Like us on Facebook

Facebook.com/
UCDavisArtHistoryProgram

Minor in Art History

Many students benefit from an Art History minor. Unlike majors, which are declared at the outset, you register for a minor as you complete it—the checklist is at the Arts Advising Office, 101 Art Building. Five upper-division Art History courses (20 units) complete the minor.

To satisfy the 3-course distribution requirement, select from the subject areas (a) Ancient Mediterranean art, (b) East Asian Art, (c) Islamic and South Asian Art, (d) European Art to 1700, (e) Western Art 1700-1900, (f) Art after 1900. One course should represent areas a, b, or c, the second course, areas d, e, or f, and a third course any of the six areas.

As electives, choose two additional Art History courses. These may include one lower-division course and the curatorial training courses AHI 401, 402. A seminar, AHI 190 (A-L), is highly recommended. Online courses, internships, independent study, courses in other disciplines are not applicable to the AHI minor.

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,” and AHI 188A “The American Home.” Majors are welcome to intermix courses on architectural topics irrespective of the specifics of the emphasis.

Prerequisites 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, have graduated with honors, written a senior honors thesis, and have reading knowledge of two foreign languages, depending on 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 elementary 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 degree 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

If you anticipate a career in business or the business side of art, consider:

- STA 10 Statistical Thinking
- STA 13 Elementary Statistics
- ECS 10, Basic Computing
- ECS 15, Intro to Computers

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

- The Minor in Human Rights

The University Writing Program offers preparation for writing of annual reports, project proposals, and grant applications, a frequent requirement

in museums and non-profit organizations. Editing is a necessity in those same professions. We recommend:

- UWP 104A Business Writing
- UWP 112A Introduction to Professional Editing

If editing, publishing or journalism interests you, we recommend

- Taking the University Writing Program Minor in Professional Writing
- Taking a wide range of courses that emphasize writing experience

Suggested Courses in Related Fields

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

Art Studio

Knowing how art is made greatly aids the study of Art History. The major requires a single lower-division course in Art Studio. Exceeding that minimum is highly recommended if you anticipate a career in art criticism, art galleries, or teaching art in middle or high school.

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 are culturally focused courses offered by the Cul-

tural 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.

History

All courses about the political and social history of the world are strongly recommended, including

- HIS 3 Cities
- HIS 147A European Intellectual History, 1800-1870
- HIS 147B European Intellectual History, 1870-1920

Psychology

Highly recommended is an understanding of perception:

- PSY 131 Perception

Anthropology

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

Comparative Literature

Another closely allied field is Comparative Literature. Its study of how themes and subjects are treated in literature across cultures parallels Art History's study of the development of visual themes.

Internships

Two upper-division internships (AHI 192) can count as electives in the major. We recommend substantive projects that will build skills; some of the best internships are those that students themselves have created.

Internships are P/NP and variable in credit (1-12 units). You should calculate 30 working hours per unit. To register for an internship, fill out the paper form available at the advising office, Art Room 101 and submit it there to receive a CRN. You must provide a description of the project, a site supervisor, and an Art History faculty sponsor. Required for completion are a report from your site supervisor and an 8-10 page paper, either a report, a journal, or writing accomplished for the project, submitted to your faculty sponsor at the end of the quarter for which you have registered.

A maximum of 12 units of internship credit can count toward your degree. You may have a not-for-credit AHI internship noted on your transcript by registering it through the Internship and Career Center. Requirements for these internships are the same as internships for credit, except the manner in which you register.

Writing Courses

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 courses, 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 are oriented toward art studio, art criticism, working with artists)

Art History Major Checklist on back 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.

NOTE: a particular course can count only once.

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS — 20 UNITS

1. Choose four (4) lower-division courses. (16 units)

- AHI 1A: Ancient Mediterranean AHI 1D: Arts of Asia AHI 5: Intro to Visual Culture
 AHI 1B: Medieval & Renaissance AHI 1DY: Arts of Asia (virtual) **AHI 25: Understanding Architecture**
 AHI 1C: Baroque to Modern AHI 1E: Islamic Art & Architecture

2. One (1) Art Studio practice course: (4 units) _____ (Any course except ART 10, 30)

UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS — 40 UNITS

1. Choose two (2) courses from two of the following three distribution areas (a, b, c) (8 units)

a) *Ancient Mediterranean Art*

- AHI 172A: Early Greek Art & Architecture** **AHI 172B: Later Greek Art & Architecture**
 AHI 173: Roman Art & Architecture **AHI 175: Architecture & Urbanism in Mediterranean Antiquity**

b) *East Asian Art*

- AHI 163A: Early Chinese Art** AHI 163B: Chinese Painting
 AHI 163C: Early Modern Chinese Painting AHI 163D: Art from China 1900 - Present AHI 164: The Arts of Japan

c) *Islamic and South Asian Art*

- AHI 154: The Hindu Temple** **AHI 155: The Islamic City** AHI 156: Arts of the Islamic Book

2. Choose two (2) courses from two of the following three distribution areas (d, e, f) (8 units)

d) *European Art before 1700*

- AHI 110: Cultural History of Museums** **AHI 120A: Art, Architecture, Human Rights**
 AHI 130: Landscape, Nature & Art **AHI 176A: Early Christian and Byzantine Art**
 AHI 176B: Romanesque Art **AHI 176C: Art of the Middle Ages: Gothic**
 AHI 178B: Italian (Early) Renaissance **AHI 178C: Italian (High) Renaissance**
 AHI 179B: Baroque Art

e) *Western Art 1700-1900*

- AHI 110: Cultural History of Museums** **AHI 120A: Art, Architecture Human Rights**
 AHI 130: Landscape, Nature and Art **AHI 168: Great Cities**
 AHI 182: British Art & Culture, 1750-1900 AHI 183A: Art in the Age of the Revolution, 1750-1850
 AHI 183B: Impressionism Post-Impressionism **AHI 188A: The American Home**
 AHI 188B: Architecture of the United States AHI 188C: American Art to 1910

f) *Art after 1900*

- AHI 110: Cultural History of Museums** **AHI 120A: Art, Architecture Human Rights**
 AHI 148: Theory, Criticism: Painting Sculpture AHI 163D: Art from China 1900 to the Present
 AHI 183C: Modernism in France **AHI 184: Twentieth Century Architecture**
 AHI 185: Avant-Gardism & Aftermath 1917-60 AHI 186: Contemporary Art 1960 to the Present
 AHI 187: Contemporary Architecture **AHI 188A: The American Home**
 AHI 188B: Architecture of the United States AHI 189: Photography in History

3. Choose one (1) undergraduate seminar: AHI 190 (A-L) (4 units)

4. Choose five (5) elective upper-division AHI courses in consultation with the major adviser (20 units)

The following courses are applicable toward the elective units:

- AHI 401 (Curatorial Principles) AHI 402 (Exhibition Methods) AHI 192 Internship (max. 2 internships)
 AHI 198 (Directed Group Study) AHI 199 (Independent Study)
 AHI 190 (A-L) additional seminar(s) may be counted either within the electives or within the appropriate distribution area above

Appropriate course substitutions may be made with the consent of the faculty major adviser.