

ART HISTORY (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/arthistory/>)

NYSED: 08045 HEGIS: 1003.00 CIP: 50.0703

Program Description

Once described by *New York Times* art critic John Russell as the best undergraduate department of art history in the country, the Art History program at NYU was established to provide a rigorous and wide-ranging education in the many facets of the history and theory of art, a mission that its faculty continues to enthusiastically embrace. Students become familiar with global art from antiquity to the present. The department offers courses in ancient, medieval, Renaissance, baroque, modern, contemporary, East Asian, South Asian, Islamic, Latin American, African, Oceanic, Pre-Columbian, and Native American art, treating not only painting, sculpture, architecture, and photography, but also graphic media, manuscript illumination, the decorative arts, and aspects of urban design. The department is one of the few undergraduate programs in the country with extensive offerings in conservation and museology. A myriad of museums, galleries, and local architectural sites make New York City the ideal place in which to study the visual arts on site and in the flesh. Beyond New York, art history courses are offered at NYU's study away sites, such as Berlin, Buenos Aires, Florence, London, Madrid, Paris, and Prague.

The department offers majors and minors in Art History and in Urban Design and Architecture Studies. Since an education in the history of art can be enhanced by a firsthand understanding of its making, our majors are encouraged to minor in Studio Art through the Steinhardt School. The department publishes its own student journal (*Ink & Image*) and has an honors program which culminates in the writing and oral defense of a senior honors thesis.

Art History graduates have proven exceptionally successful in securing positions in museums, commercial galleries, auction houses, and nonprofit organizations. Those who go on to undertake graduate study typically pursue careers as curators, conservators, and academic art historians at the university and college level. Students majoring in Urban Design and Architecture Studies are well prepared for graduate study in architecture, urban planning, and historic preservation.

Graduation with Departmental Honors

Students may graduate with departmental honors in Art History or in Urban Design and Architecture Studies by successfully researching and writing a senior thesis. This represents the culmination of the work for the major and provides excellent preparation for graduate school. To be eligible for the honors program, students must have a GPA of 3.65 or higher at the conclusion of their junior year, both overall and in Art History or in Urban Design and Architecture Studies. A student wishing to write an honors thesis must apply for admission to the program via the department's NYU Classes site (<https://as.nyu.edu/departments/arthistory/resources/HonorsT2.html>) in early March of their junior year. For a complete description of all the honors thesis requirements, please visit our departmental NYU Classes site for honors-track students.

Work toward the senior thesis consists of two 4-credit honors courses (ARTH-UA 801 Senior Honors Thesis I and ARTH-UA 804 Independent Studies, total of 8 credits) focusing on research methods and writing, accompanied by regular meetings with the supervising professor. The completed thesis, at least 30 to 40 pages in length, is read by a

committee of three faculty members, including the supervising professor. The committee meets with the student for a thesis defense at the end of the academic year. Satisfactory completion of the thesis, in the committee's judgment, earns an honors degree. These two honors courses may replace the two electives required for the major, allowing students to complete the major with honors in nine courses (36 credits).

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The major in Art History comprises nine 4-credit courses (36 credits) completed with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count) as follows: one ARTH-UA foundations course; four ARTH-UA lecture courses chosen from the chronological and cultural lists below; two advanced seminars (ARTH-UA 800); and two ARTH-UA electives. All nine courses selected for the major must be distributed across the department's three distinct time periods and across at least two cultural traditions as defined below. Note that any given course may fulfill two different distribution requirements: that is, both chronological and cultural.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Major Requirements		
ARTH-UA 10	Foundations of Art History	4
Four Lecture Courses Chosen From:		
<i>Courses Classified by Time Periods ²</i>		
Ancient or Medieval Art or Architecture (from Any Cultural Tradition)		
ARTH-UA 3	Ancient Art	
ARTH-UA 4	Medieval Art	
ARTH-UA 103	Roman Art	
ARTH-UA 105	Roman Architecture	
ARTH-UA 110	Ancient Egyptian Art	
ARTH-UA 150	Sp Tpcs Ancient Art:	
ARTH-UA 201	Art of Early Middle Ages	
ARTH-UA 202	Romanesque Art	
ARTH-UA 203	Gothic Art in Northern Europe	
ARTH-UA 204	Art and Architecture in The Age of Giotto	
ARTH-UA 205	Medieval Architecture	
ARTH-UA 250	Sp Tpcs Medieval Art:	
ARTH-UA 510	East Asian Art I: China, Korea, Japan to 1000 Ce	
ARTH-UA 530	South Asian Art I: Indus Valley to 1200	

ARTH-UA 540 Art in Islamic World I: from Prophet to Mongols	ARTH-UA 5 Renaissance Art
Early Modern Art or Architecture (from Any Cultural Tradition)	ARTH-UA 6 Modern Art
ARTH-UA 5 Renaissance Art	ARTH-UA 101
ARTH-UA 302 Architecture & Urbanism in the Age of the Baroque	ARTH-UA 102 Archaic and Classical Art: Greek and Etruscan
ARTH-UA 306 Early Masters of Italian Renaissance Painting	ARTH-UA 103 Roman Art
ARTH-UA 307 Age of Leonardo, Raphael & Michelangelo	ARTH-UA 104 Greek Architecture
ARTH-UA 309 Italian Art in The Age of The Baroque	ARTH-UA 105 Roman Architecture
ARTH-UA 311 Dutch & Flemish Painting, 1600-1700	ARTH-UA 150 Sp Tpcs Ancient Art:
ARTH-UA 315 Art in Spain from El Greco to Goya	ARTH-UA 201 Art of Early Middle Ages
ARTH-UA 317 European and American Decorative Arts: Renaissance to Modern	ARTH-UA 202 Romanesque Art
ARTH-UA 350 Sp Tpcs Renaissance & Baroque Art:	ARTH-UA 203 Gothic Art in Northern Europe
ARTH-UA 511 East Asian Art II:China, Korea, Japan, 1000Ce-Pr	ARTH-UA 204 Art and Architecture in The Age of Giotto
ARTH-UA 531 South Asian Art II: 1200 to The Present	ARTH-UA 205 Medieval Architecture
ARTH-UA 541 Art in The Islamic World II: Mongols to Modernism	ARTH-UA 250 Sp Tpcs Medieval Art:
ARTH-UA 560 Arts of Africa	ARTH-UA 301 Architecture and Urbanism in Renaissance Europe
ARTH-UA 570 North American Indian Arts	ARTH-UA 302 Architecture & Urbanism in the Age of the Baroque
Modern Art or Architecture (from Any Cultural Tradition)	ARTH-UA 303 Northern Renaissance Art, 1400-1530
ARTH-UA 6 Modern Art	ARTH-UA 304 16th Century Art North of The Alps
ARTH-UA 404 American Art	ARTH-UA 305 Italian Renaissance Sculpture
ARTH-UA 407 Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art	ARTH-UA 306 Early Masters of Italian Renaissance Painting
ARTH-UA 408 Early Modern Architecture	ARTH-UA 307 Age of Leonardo, Raphael & Michelangelo
ARTH-UA 409 Modern Architecture: 1914 to The Present	ARTH-UA 308 Golden Age Venetian Painting
ARTH-UA 411 Neo-Classicism to Realism	ARTH-UA 309 Italian Art in The Age of The Baroque
ARTH-UA 412 Impressionism to Post-Impressionism	ARTH-UA 311 Dutch & Flemish Painting, 1600-1700
ARTH-UA 413 Cubism to Surrealism	ARTH-UA 313 French Art From Versailles to the Age of Rococo, c. 1660-1760
ARTH-UA 414 Contemporary Art	ARTH-UA 315 Art in Spain from El Greco to Goya
ARTH-UA 431 Aesthetic History of Photography	ARTH-UA 316 Latin American Art: From Colonial to Modern
ARTH-UA 432 Social History of Photography	ARTH-UA 317 European and American Decorative Arts: Renaissance to Modern
ARTH-UA 433 Toward a Critical Vocabulary of Photography	ARTH-UA 350 Sp Tpcs Renaissance & Baroque Art:
ARTH-UA 450 Sp Tpcs Modern Art:	ARTH-UA 404 American Art
ARTH-UA 511 East Asian Art II:China, Korea, Japan, 1000Ce-Pr	ARTH-UA 407 Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art
ARTH-UA 531 South Asian Art II: 1200 to The Present	ARTH-UA 408 Early Modern Architecture
ARTH-UA 541 Art in The Islamic World II: Mongols to Modernism	ARTH-UA 409 Modern Architecture: 1914 to The Present
ARTH-UA 560 Arts of Africa	ARTH-UA 411 Neo-Classicism to Realism
ARTH-UA 570 North American Indian Arts	ARTH-UA 412 Impressionism to Post-Impressionism
ARTH-UA 701 Museums & The Art Market	ARTH-UA 413 Cubism to Surrealism
Course Not Belonging to a Single Time Period	ARTH-UA 414 Contemporary Art
ARTH-UA 601 History of Architecture: Antiquity to Present	ARTH-UA 431 Aesthetic History of Photography
Courses Classified by Cultural Traditions ²	ARTH-UA 432 Social History of Photography
African and Ancient Near Eastern	ARTH-UA 433 Toward a Critical Vocabulary of Photography
ARTH-UA 110 Ancient Egyptian Art	ARTH-UA 450 Sp Tpcs Modern Art:
ARTH-UA 560 Arts of Africa	ARTH-UA 701 Museums & The Art Market
East Asian	Islamic
ARTH-UA 507 Asian Art in Ny Museums and Galleries	ARTH-UA 540 Art in Islamic World I: from Prophet to Mongols
ARTH-UA 510 East Asian Art I: China, Korea, Japan to 1000 Ce	ARTH-UA 541 Art in The Islamic World II: Mongols to Modernism
ARTH-UA 511 East Asian Art II:China, Korea, Japan, 1000Ce-Pr	Pre-Columbian, Native American, and Oceanic
ARTH-UA 512 Arts of China	ARTH-UA 570 North American Indian Arts
ARTH-UA 520 Arts of Japan	South and Southeast Asian
European (and Post-1500 American)	ARTH-UA 530 South Asian Art I: Indus Valley to 1200
ARTH-UA 3 Ancient Art	ARTH-UA 531 South Asian Art II: 1200 to The Present
ARTH-UA 4 Medieval Art	

Two Advanced Seminars		
ARTH-UA 800	Advanced Seminar (taken two times, for a total of 8 credits) ³	8
Major Electives		
Select two ARTH-UA electives ⁴	8	
Electives		
Other Elective Credits	44	
Total Credits	128	

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² Certain ARTH-UA 550 Sp Tpcs Non-Western Art: or ARTH-UA 800 Advanced Seminar courses may also satisfy this requirement when the content is appropriate.

³ Prerequisite: completion of all four lecture courses required for the major. To be taken during the junior or senior year.

⁴ Chosen from any non-survey courses in the department or any approved course offered in another department or at an NYU study away site. Any course in the Urban Design and Architecture Studies program may be counted as an elective for the Art History major. Other proposed substitutions must be discussed with and approved by the DUS prior to election of the course in question.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA 10	Foundations of Art History	4
Foreign Language		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
	Credits	16
2nd Semester/Term		
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Foreign Language		4
ARTH-UA XXX	Lecture Course #1 of 4	4
	Credits	16
3rd Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA XXX	Lecture Course #2 of 4	4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Foreign Language		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
4th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA XXX	Lecture Course #3 of 4	4
Foreign Language		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
5th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA XXX	Lecture Course #4 of 4	4
ARTH-UA XXX	Major Elective 1 of 2	4
Physical Science		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
6th Semester/Term		
Life Science		4

ARTH-UA XXX	Major Elective 2 of 2	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
7th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA 8XX	Advanced Seminar 1 of 2	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
8th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA 8XX	Advanced Seminar 2 of 2	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
	Credits	16
Total Credits		128

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. Foundational knowledge of the history and theory of art across different time periods and cultures, as well as specialized and advanced knowledge in areas of particular interest.
2. The ability to think critically about how art operates within social and political contexts, both historically and today.
3. An understanding of how art history has developed as a discipline, its range of analytical strategies, and the field's critical and interpretive approaches.
4. Visual literacy and the ability to describe and interpret a wide range of images and objects from different cultures and media.
5. Effective writing skills, including the ability to develop arguments and support them with evidence, and also presentation and speaking skills (as developed in seminar courses).
6. The ability to conduct primary and secondary research in libraries, museums, and other repositories.

Policies

Program Policies

Policies Applying to the Major

1. Credit toward the Art History majors and minors is granted only for courses completed with a grade of C or higher. Courses graded Pass/Fail do not count. Neither do art or art history courses in Steinhardt.
2. In the Art History major, students must complete at least one course in each of two distinct cultural traditions which include Africa/the Near East, East Asia, South Asia, Europe/the Americas, Islamic, and Pre-Columbian/Native American/Oceanic, among others.
3. The following courses satisfy either the early modern or modern art and architecture requirement in the Art History major, not both: ARTH-UA 511 East Asian Art II: China, Korea, Japan, 1000Ce-Pr, ARTH-UA 531 South Asian Art II: 1200 to The Present, ARTH-UA 541 Art in The Islamic World II: Mongols to Modernism, and certain ARTH-UA 850 Special Topics: courses, when the content is appropriate.
4. In addition, the following courses may be used to satisfy only one of the ancient or medieval, early modern, or modern art and architecture requirements in the Art History major: ARTH-UA 560 Arts of Africa, and certain ARTH-UA 850 Special Topics: courses, when the content is appropriate.

5. Note that any given course may fulfill two different distribution requirements: that is, both chronological and cultural. For instance, ARTH-UA 510 East Asian Art I qualifies as ancient/medieval (chronological) and East Asian (cultural). If students use one or more courses to satisfy two distribution requirements in this fashion, they may need to take one or more extra major electives so that their total number of major credits remains at the requirement of 36 credits.

Advanced Standing Credit

A score of 5 on the Advanced Placement Art History examination, or a score of A on the Advanced Level History of Art examination, exempts students from ARTH-UA 10 Foundations of Art History and counts as one course toward the major (i.e., the major can be completed with eight courses). Note that the Advanced Level exam awards 8 credits; 4 are equivalent to ARTH-UA 10 Foundations of Art History, and the other 4 are ARTH-UA elective credits that count toward the baccalaureate degree but not the major. Lower scores on AP and A Levels do not count toward the major or exempt students from ARTH-UA 10 Foundations of Art History, although scores of 4 and B respectively do count as elective credit toward the baccalaureate degree. Advanced standing credits cannot count toward the minor.

Courses in the College Core Curriculum

Students majoring or minoring in Art History or Urban Design and Architecture Studies are exempt from the College Core Curriculum's Expressive Culture requirement. Students who wish to have a Core Expressive Culture course (CORE-UA 720 Expressive Cult: Images or CORE-UA 722 Expressive Culture: Architecture in New York Field) count for credit toward either major must secure the permission of the director of undergraduate studies for Art History or the director of the Urban Design and Architecture Studies program.

Internship Policy

Under exceptional circumstances, the Department of Art History awards academic credit (1 or 2 credits) for an internship accompanied by an independent study. Students must find a professor willing to supervise this study. Course work may include a written diary recording the student's work experience and will include a term paper relevant to the internship, to be approved by the supervising professor. The independent study must also be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).