

ART HISTORY (BA)

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

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 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 the 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 in early March of the 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) 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.

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

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	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
<i>Ancient or Medieval Art or Architecture (from Any Cultural Tradition)</i>		
Select one of the following: ²		4
ARTH-UA 3	Ancient Art	
ARTH-UA 4	Medieval Art	
ARTH-UA 101		
ARTH-UA 102		
ARTH-UA 103	Roman Art	
ARTH-UA 104		
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:	
<i>Early Modern Art or Architecture (from Any Cultural Tradition)</i>		
Select one of the following: ²		4
ARTH-UA 5	Renaissance Art	
ARTH-UA 301		
ARTH-UA 302	Architecture & Urbanism in the Age of the Baroque	
ARTH-UA 303		
ARTH-UA 304		
ARTH-UA 305		
ARTH-UA 306	Early Masters of Italian Renaissance Painting	
ARTH-UA 307	Age of Leonardo, Raphael & Michelangelo	

ARTH-UA 308	
ARTH-UA 309	Italian Art in The Age of The Baroque
ARTH-UA 311	Dutch & Flemish Painting, 1600-1700
ARTH-UA 313	
ARTH-UA 315	Art in Spain from El Greco to Goya
ARTH-UA 316	
ARTH-UA 350	Sp Tpcs Renaissance & Baroque Art:
ARTH-UA 507	
ARTH-UA 511	East Asian Art II: China, Korea, Japan, 1000Ce-Pr
ARTH-UA 512	
ARTH-UA 520	
ARTH-UA 531	South Asian Art II: 1200 to The Present
ARTH-UA 541	Art in The Islamic World II: Mongols to Modernism
<i>Advanced Course in Modern Art or Architecture (from Any Cultural Tradition)</i>	
Select one of the following:	4
ARTH-UA 6	Modern Art
ARTH-UA 404	
ARTH-UA 407	
ARTH-UA 408	
ARTH-UA 409	Modern Architecture: 1914 to The Present
ARTH-UA 411	
ARTH-UA 412	
ARTH-UA 413	
ARTH-UA 414	
ARTH-UA 431	
ARTH-UA 432	Social History of Photography
ARTH-UA 433	
ARTH-UA 450	Sp Tpcs Modern Art:
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
ARTH-UA 560	Arts of Africa
ARTH-UA 570	North American Indian Arts
ARTH-UA 701	Museums & The Art Market
<i>Cultural Traditions Requirement</i>	
Select two of the following in art or architecture from two distinct traditions	8
Africa and the Ancient Near East:	
ARTH-UA 110	Ancient Egyptian Art
ARTH-UA 560	Arts of Africa
ARTH-UA 550	(when the content is appropriate)
ARTH-UA 800	Advanced Seminar (when the content is appropriate)
East Asia:	
ARTH-UA 507	
ARTH-UA 510	East Asian Art I: China, Korea, Japan to 1000 Ce
ARTH-UA 511	East Asian Art II: China, Korea, Japan, 1000Ce-Pr
ARTH-UA 512	
ARTH-UA 520	
ARTH-UA 550	(when the content is appropriate)
ARTH-UA 800	Advanced Seminar (when the content is appropriate)

Europe and the Americas:

ARTH-UA 1	History of Western Art I
ARTH-UA 2	History of Western Art II
ARTH-UA 3	Ancient Art
ARTH-UA 4	Medieval Art
ARTH-UA 5	Renaissance Art
ARTH-UA 6	Modern Art
ARTH-UA 101	
ARTH-UA 102	
ARTH-UA 103	Roman Art
ARTH-UA 104	
ARTH-UA 105	Roman Architecture
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 301	
ARTH-UA 302	Architecture & Urbanism in the Age of the Baroque
ARTH-UA 303	
ARTH-UA 304	
ARTH-UA 305	
ARTH-UA 306	Early Masters of Italian Renaissance Painting
ARTH-UA 307	Age of Leonardo, Raphael & Michelangelo
ARTH-UA 308	
ARTH-UA 309	Italian Art in The Age of The Baroque
ARTH-UA 311	Dutch & Flemish Painting, 1600-1700
ARTH-UA 313	
ARTH-UA 315	Art in Spain from El Greco to Goya
ARTH-UA 316	
ARTH-UA 317	European and American Decorative Arts: Renaissance to Modern
ARTH-UA 404	
ARTH-UA 407	
ARTH-UA 408	
ARTH-UA 409	Modern Architecture: 1914 to The Present
ARTH-UA 411	
ARTH-UA 412	
ARTH-UA 413	
ARTH-UA 414	
ARTH-UA 431	
ARTH-UA 432	Social History of Photography
ARTH-UA 433	
ARTH-UA 701	Museums & The Art Market
ARTH-UA 800	Advanced Seminar (when the content is appropriate)
Islamic:	
ARTH-UA 540	Art in Islamic World I: from Prophet to Mongols
ARTH-UA 541	Art in The Islamic World II: Mongols to Modernism
Pre-Columbian, Native American, and Oceanic:	
ARTH-UA 570	North American Indian Arts
ARTH-UA 550	(when the content is appropriate)

South and Southeast Asian:

ARTH-UA 530	South Asian Art I: Indus Valley to 1200	
ARTH-UA 531	South Asian Art II: 1200 to The Present	
ARTH-UA 800	Advanced Seminar ³	4
ARTH-UA 800	Advanced Seminar ³	4
Electives		
Major Elective (select one ARTH-UA elective) ⁴		4
<i>Other Elective Credits</i>		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 courses may also satisfy this requirement when the content is appropriate.

3

To be taken during the junior or senior year. Students must have completed four art history courses before enrolling in an advanced seminar.

4

Chosen from any non-survey courses 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 The Essay:	4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Foreign Language		4
ARTH-UA XXX	Ancient or Medieval Art or Architecture course ¹	4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA XXX	Early Modern Art or Architecture course ²	4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Foreign Language		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA XXX	Cultural Traditions Requirement 1 of 2 ³	4
Foreign Language		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UA XXX	Cultural Traditions Requirement 2 of 2 ³	4

ARTH-UA XXX	Major Elective ⁴	4
Physical Science		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Life Science		4
ARTH-UA XXX	Advanced Course in Modern Art or Architecture ⁵	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

1

From any cultural tradition (chosen from ARTH-UA 3-4, 101-105, 110, 150, 201-205, 250).

2

From any cultural tradition (chosen from ARTH-UA 5, 301-309, 311, 313, 315-316, 350, 507, 511-512, 520, 531, 541).

3

Two courses in Art or Architecture from two distinct traditions (chosen from approved course list).

4

Chosen from any non-survey courses or any pre-approved course offered in another department or at an NYU study away site. Students who double-count one or more major courses toward both chronological and cultural traditions requirements must take additional ARTH-UA electives to earn 36 credits in nine courses.

5

From any cultural tradition (chosen from ARTH-UA 6, 404, 407-409, 411-414, 431-433, 450, 511, 531, 541, 560, 570, 701).

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

Policies Applying to the Major

Credit toward the art history and urban design major or minor is granted only for courses completed with a grade of C or higher. Courses graded Pass/Fail do not count.

In the art history major, students may use one course to satisfy both a chronological requirement and a cultural traditions requirement (for example, one course might fulfill the early modern art requirement as well as one of the two required courses in cultural traditions). Students who double-count courses toward major requirements in this fashion will need to take one or more additional electives to reach the major's statutory minimum of nine 4-point courses.

The following courses satisfy either the early modern or modern art and architecture requirement in the art history major, not both: ARTH-UA 5 Renaissance Art, ARTH-UA 316, ARTH-UA 317 European and American Decorative Arts: Renaissance to Modern, ARTH-UA 511 East Asian Art II: China, Korea, Japan, 1000Ce-Pr, ARTH-UA 520, ARTH-UA 531 South Asian Art II: 1200 to The Present, ARTH-UA 541 Art in The Islamic World II: Mongols to Modernism.

In addition, the following courses may be used to satisfy only one of the ancient, early modern, or modern art and architecture requirements in the art history major: ARTH-UA 506, ARTH-UA 507, ARTH-UA 512.

Students cannot receive credit for both: ARTH-UA 1 History of Western Art I) and ARTH-UA 3 Ancient Art or ARTH-UA 4 Medieval Art; or for both ARTH-UA 2 History of Western Art II and ARTH-UA 5 Renaissance Art or ARTH-UA 6 Modern Art, as their contents overlap.

Art history courses taken in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development may not be double-counted for credit toward an art history minor. However, for Steinhardt students taking a minor in art history, the two-semester Steinhardt survey Art and Contemporary Culture is the prerequisite for advanced Renaissance, baroque, and modern courses. Art and Contemporary Culture II may only serve as the prerequisite for advanced modern courses.

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 points; 4 are equivalent to ARTH-UA 10 Foundations of Art History, and the other 4 are ARTH-UA elective points 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, CORE-UA 721, 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 (2 points) 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/>).