Art History, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

• acquire breadth of knowledge about the field of art history through course work in a diversity of areas;
• learn that art embodies historical, cultural, social, and political factors within a diverse range of national, international, and global cultures;
• acquire critical skills in visual analysis and writing; and
• develop and apply research skills.

Overview

The program in art history engages in problems of historical analysis and in interpretation of culture. The major provides students with a strong liberal arts background and prepares them for competitive placement in graduate schools across the country. As students progress through the major, they become familiar with historical relationships between art objects and society, learn techniques of visual analysis, study patterns of patronage, and apply methods for interpreting the meanings of art, architecture, and other forms of visual culture. In the course of their studies, art history majors develop their research abilities and writing skills.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in art history requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 45 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Students may count a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in art and art history courses toward the degree; they must earn at least 64 s.h. of credit in courses outside the School of Art and Art History in order to graduate.

B.A. students with a double major in the school (e.g., a major in art history and a major in art) or a major and a minor in the school (e.g., a major in art history and a minor in art) must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside the School of Art and Art History in order to graduate.

The B.A. with a major in art history requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1080</td>
<td>Writing About the Visual Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1040</td>
<td>Arts of Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1070</td>
<td>Asian Art and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1095</td>
<td>American Indian Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of these:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH:4999</td>
<td>History and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three courses chosen from those numbered</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:2020 through ARTH:2920</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Five upper-level courses chosen from those numbered ARTH:3000 through ARTH:4941</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Studio Art

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1050</td>
<td>From Cave Paintings to Cathedrals: Survey of Western Art I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1060</td>
<td>From Mona Lisa to Modernism: Survey of Western Art II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transfer Students

Transfer students should meet with the undergraduate advisor to discuss the requirements they may fulfill with transfer courses. Art history transfer courses must be reviewed by the head of the art history area to determine a student’s placement in or exemption from required art history courses. Students may count a maximum of 15 s.h. of approved transfer credit toward their major.

Study Abroad

Students who wish to study abroad must meet with the undergraduate advisor before they depart in order to confirm approval of the courses they plan to take.

Students who take art history courses abroad must present the course syllabus to their advisor well in advance of their departure. The head of the art history program determines whether the study abroad course is equivalent to a course required for the major; if it is, the student is credited with fulfilling the requirement once the course is completed with a passing grade.

Students who take studio art courses abroad must bring their artwork back to campus and present it in a portfolio review, which determines whether the work satisfies a requirement for their major. The portfolio review is not required if the study abroad course was taught by a School of Art and Art History faculty member who gave the student a grade for the course.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Honors students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.50
in their major. They also must complete an application to graduate with honors in the major.

Students must complete an honors project that includes an honors thesis during the semester in which they plan to graduate. Students have two options for completing the honors project.

Option 1: Students take two upper-division courses with an honors contract and complete an extra project, such as an annotated bibliography, a supplemental paper or presentation, or a comparable project endorsed by the professor. Students then enroll in a third upper-division course, with or without honors contract, appropriate to their honors paper topic and ARTH:3985 Honors Research in Art History for 1 s.h. credit with the same instructor. Through enrollment in ARTH:3985, students write an honors paper of 3,000 to 5,000 words.

Option 2: Students research and write an honors paper of 5,000 to 7,500 words under the direction of an art history professor, who agrees to act as their honors advisor. Students earn up to 3 s.h. credit in ARTH:3985 Honors Research in Art History. They must have the approval of their honors advisor before they begin work on their honors paper.

The honors paper should conform to the Graduate College format for theses; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College on the Graduate College website.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the art history major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least four courses in the major

Before the seventh semester begins: at least four more courses in the major (total of eight) and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: at least three more courses in the major (total of 11)

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Art History, B.A.

Course Title Hours

First Year

Fall

RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature 3 - 4

Major: art history survey course a, b 3

Major: art history survey course a, b 3

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab c 3

CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2

Hours 14 - 15

Spring

ARTH:1080 Writing About the Visual Arts d 3

ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric 3 - 4

Major: art history survey course b, e 3

GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion c 3

GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues c 3

Hours 15 - 16

Second Year

Fall

ARTS:1510 Basic Drawing 3

Major: introductory-level art history course f 3

Major: introductory-level art history course f 3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course g 4 - 5

Elective course h 3

Hours 16 - 17

Spring

Major: introductory-level art history course f 3

Major: introductory-level studio art course i 3

GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning c 3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course g 4 - 5

Elective course h 3

Hours 16 - 17

Third Year

Fall

Major: elective non-art course 3

Major: upper-level art history course j 3

Major: upper-level art history course j 3

GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture c 3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course g 4 - 5

Hours 16 - 17

Spring

Major: elective non-art course 3

Major: upper-level art history course j 3

Major: upper-level art history course j 3

GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences c 3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course g 4 - 5

Hours 16 - 17

Fourth Year

Fall

ARTH:4999 History and Methods 3
### Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major: elective non-art course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
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#### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Major: elective non-art course</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level art history course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Notes:**

- Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- Students complete five upper-level courses (15 s.h.) chosen from those numbered ARTH:3000 through ARTH:4941.
- Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor. For more information visit [http://commencement.uiowa.edu/](http://commencement.uiowa.edu/). If applicable search for “Early and Late Participation” to find this page (e.g. walk in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).

### Career Advancement

Many graduates go on to careers in academics, in museums, or in private art galleries. Those who wish to work as professors, museum curators, or museum directors typically pursue graduate study in art history. Some graduates instead pursue advanced study in fields such as architecture, information science, museum studies, and law. Others may begin careers immediately, working in galleries and museums as arts administrators and catalogers, writing art criticism, or applying their skills in writing and visual analysis to disciplines beyond the arts.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.