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 minor 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.

Students interested in teaching art in elementary and/or secondary schools may apply to the art education program; see “Teacher Licensure” below.

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>Thirteen Art History Courses</td>
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<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Studio Art Courses</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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Art History

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

Studio Art

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

Teacher Licensure

Majors interested in earning licensure to teach in elementary and/or secondary schools must complete the College of Education’s Teacher Education Program (TEP) in addition to the requirements for the art history major and all
requirements for graduation with a B.A. degree. The TEP requires several College of Education courses and student teaching. Students must satisfy all degree requirements and complete Teacher Education Program licensure before degree conferral. Contact the Office of Student Services in the College of Education for details.

### 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.

**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

### Career Advancement

Many graduates pursue careers that match their degree specializations, such as commercial or graphic designer, conservation or museum curator or administrator, art educator, public artist, gallery and museum administration, art appraisal, and restoration, or community art center coordinator or instructor. Others go on to graduate study in areas such as art history, art therapy, architecture, design, medical illustration, studio art, or disciplines outside of art.

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