Art History, B.A.

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.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

• acquire breadth of knowledge about the field of art history through coursework 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.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in art history requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 39 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 coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eleven Art History Courses</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two Studio Art Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Art History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</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>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1080</td>
<td>Writing About the Visual Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:4999</td>
<td>History and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seven additional art history courses that include (a course can count toward more than one requirement):

- At least two art history courses numbered ARTH:2000 through ARTH:2999
- At least four art history courses numbered ARTH:3000 through ARTH:4998
- At least two art history courses in non-Western areas (e.g. African, Asian, Islamic, Native American) from these:
  - ARTH:1040 Arts of Africa 3
  - ARTH:1070 Asian Art and Culture 3
  - ARTH:1095 Native American Art 3
  - ARTH:2120 Art and Architecture of the Islamic World 3
  - ARTH:2220 Introduction to the Art of China 3
  - ARTH:2250 Introduction to the Art of Japan 3
  - ARTH:2330 Introduction to Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art 3
  - ARTH:3103 Art of the Pacific Islands 3
  - ARTH:3120 The Art of Ancient Mexico 3
  - ARTH:3150 Art of West Africa 3
  - ARTH:3151 Art of Central Africa 3
  - ARTH:3160 Themes in African Art 3
  - ARTH:3220 Chinese Art and Culture 3
  - ARTH:3225 Contemporary Art and Culture in China 3
  - ARTH:3230 Chinese Painting I: Pagodas and Palaces 3
  - ARTH:3250 Brushwork in Chinese Art 3
  - ARTH:3255 Copy and Paste: Methods of Reproduction in Asian Art 3
  - ARTH:3260 Japanese Painting 3
  - ARTH:3270 Themes in Asian Art History 3
  - ARTH:3275 Garden Culture in East Asia 3
  - ARTH:3280 The Materialization of Sexuality in China and Beyond 3
  - ARTH:3325 Kings, Gods, and Heroes: Art of the Ancient Near East 3

**Studio Art**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTS:1510</td>
<td>Basic Drawing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| One of these:
  - ARTS:1520 Design Fundamentals 3
  - CERM:2010 Ceramics I: Handbuilding 3
  - DRAW:2310 Life Drawing I 3
  - DSGN:2500 Graphic Design I 3
  - INTM:2710 Introduction to Intermedia 3
  - MTLS:2910 Introduction to Jewelry and Metal Arts 3
  - PHTO:2600 Photography I 3
  - PNTG:2410 Painting I 3
  - PRNT:2610 Introduction to Printmaking 3
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 coursework 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1050</td>
<td>From Cave Paintings to Cathedrals: Survey of Western Art I a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH:1060</td>
<td>From Mona Lisa to Modernism: Survey of Western Art II a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab b</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Spring
- **ARTH:1080** Writing About the Visual Arts c 3
- **RHET:1030** Rhetoric or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature 3 - 4
- GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion b 3
- GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues b 3

#### Hours
15-16

### Second Year
#### Fall
- **ARTS:1510** Basic Drawing 3
- Major: art history course (prefix ARTH) numbered 2000-2999 e 3
- Major: art history course (prefix ARTH) numbered 2000-2999 e 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course f 4 - 5

#### Hours
16-17

### Third Year
#### Fall
- Major: upper-level art history course e, g 3
- Major: introductory-level studio art course h 3
- GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning b 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course f 4 - 5

#### Hours
16-17

### Spring
- Major: upper-level art history course e, g 3
- GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences b 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course f 4 - 5

#### Hours
16-17

### Fourth Year
#### Fall
- **ARTH:4999** History and Methods 3
- Major: art history course (prefix ARTH) numbered 1000-4998 e 3
- GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab b 4

#### Hours
15

### Spring
- Elective course d 3
- Elective course d 3
- Elective course d 3

#### Hours
15

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### Notes
- a Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- b GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- c This course should be taken after completing Rhetoric and before enrollment in courses ARTH:2975 and above.
- d 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.
- e Students complete at least two art history courses (6 s.h.) in non-Western areas (e.g. African, Asian, Islamic, Native American). See General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- f Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- g Students complete four upper-level courses (12 s.h.) chosen from art history courses (prefix ARTH) numbered 3000-4998.
- i 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/. If applicable search for “Early and Late Participation” to find this page (e.g. participate in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).

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### 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.