

Art History

Coordinator: James H. Terry, Ph.D.

Courses in Art History offer students opportunities to explore the painting, sculpture, architecture and decorative arts of periods from prehistory through contemporary art. Students should begin their study of Art History with the introductory course, ARH101, followed by intermediate and advanced courses that concentrate on specific art-historical periods. Courses in Art History enhance majors in Theater, Dance, Film, Graphic Design, Interior Design and Fashion Design by broadening students' understanding of the contexts in which these arts developed.

Requirements for a Minor in Art History

Students must complete 15 semester hours in the ARH prefix, including six hours at the 300 level. The Art History minor may become part of the Liberal Studies major and student-initiated majors.

Art History Courses

ARH 101: Introduction to the History of Art

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students)

Introduces students to the history of the visual arts and architecture. Students will become familiar with a wide range of artistic techniques and media and will acquire analytical tools for understanding and criticizing the arts. Students will learn to recognize the distinctive features of key periods in the history of western art from prehistory to the present day. The primary focus will be the art of the Mediterranean, Europe and post-colonial America, but the traditions of Asia, the Islamic world, Africa and ancient Mesoamerica will also be discussed. This course is intended to provide a foundation for more advanced study and to contribute to a life-long appreciation of art.

ARH 201: Greek and Roman Art

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor)

Introduces students to the material remains of the ancient Greeks and Romans, the founders of western art and culture. Painting, sculpture, architecture and the decorative arts will be analyzed in the context of political, social and cultural institutions. Students will learn to recognize major period styles and understand how buildings and art objects functioned in Greek and Roman society.

ARH 203: Medieval and Byzantine Art

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor)

Introduces students to the art and architecture of the Medieval and Byzantine worlds, from the Christianization of the Roman Empire in the 4th century to the brink of the Renaissance in the 14th century. We will explore sculpture, wall painting, the arts of the book, secular and religious architecture and the decorative arts (ceramics, metalwork, glass, textiles and mosaics) in the context of political, social and cultural institutions.

ARH 205: Renaissance and Baroque Art

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor)

Focuses on painting, sculpture and architecture from the 14th to the 17th centuries in Italy and Northern Europe—one of the most brilliant periods in the history of art. Students will analyze works of art in terms of technique, iconography, function and style, and (most importantly) in terms of their meanings in the contexts of their own times and for us today.

ARH 207: Nineteenth-century Art

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor.)

Concentrates on European and American painting, sculpture and decorative arts in the nineteenth century. The major periods studied are Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism. Artists include David, Goya, Turner, Courbet, Manet, Monet, Cassatt, Degas, Van Gogh, Gauguin and Cézanne.

ARH 280: Topics in Art History

(3 hrs.)

Topics courses are devoted to subjects that are not covered in depth in other ARH courses, especially non-Western art.

ARH 309: Modernism and Post-Modernism in the Arts

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: one ARH course and junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor)

This course explores the arts in Europe and America from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. We focus on important styles and movements, examining both the artistic products of each and the public statements of the participants. We pay particular attention to the interconnectedness of the arts in various media. Artists featured include painters, sculptors, architects, composers, playwrights, performance artists, filmmakers and choreographers.

ARH 317: Islamic Art and Culture

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: one ARH course and junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor)

This course introduces the art and architecture of Islam, a cultural heritage shared by one fifth of the world's population. We will investigate this subject from the perspective of the faith and traditions of Islam and the history of the Muslim world from the time of Mohammed to the present day. Topics will include secular and religious architecture, miniature painting, calligraphy, and the decorative arts. Our investigation will proceed through illustrated lectures and discussion, supplemented by films and field trips.

ARH 355: Seminar: Women in Art

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: one ARH course and junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor; cross-listed as WST 355)

This course explores the contributions women have made to painting, sculpture and architecture from the Renaissance to the present.

ARH 380: Topics in Art History

(3 hrs.)

Topics courses are devoted to subjects that are not covered in depth in other ARH courses, especially non-Western art.