

UC SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS

ART HISTORY/THEORY/CRITICISM MAJOR

For Students Declared Fall 2016 to Spring 2021

Major Code: VA26

The major in art history, theory, and criticism is designed both for students who desire a broadly-based education in the humanities and for those who plan to pursue a career in an art-related profession. In both cases, the foundation for study is proficiency in the languages of artistic expression. Through the study of art history, students learn to treat works of art as manifestations of human belief, thought, and experience in Western and non-Western societies from prehistory to the present day. Courses in criticism review the theoretical approaches which are used to understand artistic achievement. By combining art historical and critical study, the program promotes in the student an awareness of the cultural traditions which have shaped his or her intellectual outlook and provides a framework for informed judgment on the crucial issues of meaning and expression in contemporary society.

Majors are encouraged to take relevant courses in allied disciplines such as History, Communication, Anthropology, and Literature, and in such area programs as Classics and Italian Studies. In addition, students who plan to apply to graduate schools are strongly advised to develop proficiency in one or more foreign languages, as is dictated by their area of specialization.

LOWER DIVISION	6 courses / 24-26 units
UPPER DIVISION	12 courses / 48 units
TOTAL COURSES REQUIRED	18 courses / 72-74 units

ALL COURSES TAKEN FOR MAJOR REQUIREMENTS MUST BE TAKEN FOR A **LETTER GRADE**, AND ONLY GRADES OF **C- OR BETTER** WILL BE ACCEPTED. REFER TO COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR ENFORCED PREREQUISITES.

* Indicates Seminar

LOWER DIVISION

FOUNDATION LEVEL (6 courses/24-26 units)

VIS 11	Introduction to Visual Arts
VIS 22	Formations of Modern Art
VIS 23*	Information Technologies in Art History

Choose two History courses:

VIS 20	Introduction to Art History
VIS 21A	Introduction to the Art of the Americas of Africa and Oceania
VIS 21B	Introduction to Asian Art
VIS 84	History of Film

Choose one Art Making course:

VIS 1	Introduction to Art-Making: 2D
VIS 2	Introduction to Art-Making: Motion Based
VIS 3	Introduction to Art-Making: 3D
VIS 41	Design Communication
VIS 60	Introduction to Digital Photography
VIS 70N	Introduction to Media
VIS 80	Introduction to the Studio Major

NOTE: Students should attempt to complete VIS 23 by the end of sophomore year or the first time it is offered after declaring as a junior or transferring into the program.

UPPER DIVISION

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (7 courses/28 units)

VIS 112*	Art Historical Methods
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NOTE: Majors should complete VIS 112 by the end of their junior year and are strongly advised to do so as soon as possible.

Choose six courses, at least one from each area, A-E:

A. European Pre-Modern: Ancient and Medieval

VIS 120A	Greek Art
VIS 120B	Roman Art
VIS 120C	Late Antique Art
VIS 121AN	Art and Experience in the Middle Ages
VIS 121B	Church and Mosque: Medieval Art and Architecture
	Between Christianity and Islam
VIS 121C	Art & Bible in Middle Ages
VIS 121H	Medieval Multiculturalism
VIS 128A	Topics in Pre-Modern Art History

B. European Early Modern: Renaissance and Baroque

VIS 122AN	Renaissance Art
VIS 122B	Baroque
VIS 122CN	Leonardo da Vinci in Context
VIS 122D	Michelangelo
VIS 123AN	Between Spirit and Flesh
VIS 124BN	Art and the Enlightenment
VIS 128B	Topics in Early Modern Art History

C. Modern and Contemporary

VIS 124CN	Nineteenth Century Art
VIS 124D	Paris, Capital 19 th Century
VIS 124E	The Production of Nature
VIS 125A	Twentieth Century Art
VIS 125BN	Contemporary Art
VIS 125C	Modern Art in the West 1850-1950
VIS 125F	Latin American Film
VIS 128C	Topics in Modern Art History
VIS 151	History of the Experimental Film
VIS 152	Film in Social Context
VIS 152D	Identity through Transnational Cinema
VIS 154	Hard Look at the Movies

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C. Modern and Contemporary (continued)

VIS 155	The Director Series
VIS 156	Latino American Cinema
VIS 158	Histories of Photography
VIS 159	History of Art and Technology

ADVANCED LEVEL (5 courses/20 units)

D. Arts of the Americas

VIS 126AN	Pre-Columbian Art of Ancient Mexico and Central America
VIS 126BN	The Art and Civilization of the Ancient Maya
VIS 126E	Indigenisms I
VIS 126F	Indigenisms II
VIS 126HN	Pacific Coast American Indian Art
VIS 126I	Southwest American Indian Art
VIS 126J	African and Afro-American Art
VIS 126K	Oceanic Art
VIS 126P	Latin American Art: Modern to Postmodern (1890-1950)
VIS 126Q	Latin American Art: Modern to Postmodern (1950-Present)
VIS 128D	Topics in Art History of the Americas

E. Arts of Asia

VIS 127B	Arts of China
VIS 127C	Arts of Modern China
VIS 127N	20 th Century Art in China and Japan
VIS 127P	Arts of Japan
VIS 128E	Topics in Art History of Asia

You may fulfill the 6th course requirement with 1 additional course from above (A-E) or with 1 from the following:

VIS 100	Introduction to Public Culture
VIS 102	Cross-Border Urbanization
VIS 105A	Drawing: Representing the Subject
VIS 105D	The Aesthetics of Chinese Calligraphy
VIS 106A	Painting: Image Making
VIS 107A	Sculpture: Making the Object
VIS 142	Practices in Computing Arts
VIS 143	Virtual Environments
VIS 147A	Electronic Technologies for Art I
VIS 164	Photographic Strategies
VIS 165	Camera Techniques: Analog Futures

Choose one Theory course:

VIS 113AN*	History of Criticism I
VIS 113BN*	History of Criticism II
VIS 113CN*	History of Criticism III
VIS 114A*	Landscape and Memory
VIS 114B*	The Fragment: Uses and Theories
VIS 117E*	Problems in Ethnoaesthetics
VIS 117F*	Theorizing the Americas
VIS 117G*	Critical Theory and Visual Practice
VIS 117I*	Western and Non-Western Rituals and Ceremonies
VIS 129F*	Seminar in Art Theory and Criticism

Choose three Seminar courses:

VIS 122F*	Leonardo's La Gioconda
VIS 125DN*	Marcel Duchamp
VIS 126C*	Problems in Mesoamerican Art History
VIS 126D*	Problems in Ancient Maya Iconography
VIS 127D*	Early Chinese Painting
VIS 127E*	Later Chinese Painting
VIS 127F*	Japanese Buddhist Art
VIS 127G*	20 th Century Chinese Art
VIS 127Q*	Japanese Painting and Prints
VIS 129A*	Seminar in Pre-Modern Art History
VIS 129B*	Seminar in Early Modern Art History
VIS 129C*	Seminar in Modern Art History
VIS 129D*	Seminar in Art History of the Americas
VIS 129E*	Seminar in Art History of Asia

Note: Students may also select any course from the Theory course list to count towards the Seminar requirement. Course will count as ONE Theory or Seminar course but not both.

Choose one Elective course:

- Any Intermediate Art History course
- Any Advanced Art History course
- Art History Honors (VIS 129G and VIS 129H)
- VIS 199 or AIP 197

The completion of both VIS 129G and 129H count as one course towards fulfillment of the Advanced Level Elective