

UC SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS

ART HISTORY/THEORY/CRITICISM MAJOR

Current Students Declared Prior to FA16

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	5 courses / 20-22 units
UPPER DIVISION	13 courses / 52 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 (5 courses/20-22 units)

VIS 20	Introduction to Art History
VIS 22	Formations of Modern Art
VIS 23*	Information Technologies in Art History

Choose one from:

VIS 21A	Introduction to the Art of the Americas of Africa and Oceania
VIS 21B	Introduction to Asian Art

Choose one from:

VIS 1, 2 OR 3	Introduction to Art-Making
VIS 60	Introduction to Digital Photography
VIS 70N	Introduction to Media

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

GROUP I: REQUIRED COURSES (2 courses/8 units)

The following two courses are required of all art history and criticism majors:

VIS 111	Structure of Art
VIS 112*	Art Historical Methods

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

GROUP II: DISTRIBUTION (6 courses/32 units)

NOTE: Students must complete one from each area, A – F.

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 128A	Topics in Pre-Modern Art History
VIS 129A*	Seminar in Pre-Modern Art History

B. European Early Modern: Renaissance and Baroque

VIS 122AN	Renaissance Art
VIS 122CN	Leonardo da Vinci in Context
VIS 122D	Michelangelo
VIS 122F*	Leonardo's <i>La Gioconda</i>
VIS 122GS+	The City in Italy
VIS 123AN	Between Spirit and Flesh: Northern Art of the Early Renaissance
VIS 128B	Topics in Early Modern Art History
VIS 129B*	Seminar in Early Modern Art History

C. Modern and Contemporary

VIS 124BN	Art and the Enlightenment
VIS 124CN	Nineteenth Century Art
VIS 125A	Twentieth Century Art
VIS 125BN	Contemporary Art
VIS 125DN*	Marcel Duchamp
VIS 125F	Latin American Film
VIS 128C	Topics in Modern Art History
VIS 129C*	Seminar in Modern Art History
VIS 152D	Identity Through Transnational Cinema
VIS 158	Histories of Photography
VIS 159	History of Art and Technology

UC SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS

ART HISTORY/THEORY/CRITICISM MAJOR

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 126C*	Problems in Mesoamerican Art History
VIS 126D*	Problems in Ancient Maya Iconography and Inscriptions
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
VIS 129D*	Seminar in Art History of the Americas
VIS 156	Latino American Cinema

E. Arts of Asia

VIS 127A	Contemporary Arts in South Korea
VIS 127B	Arts of China
VIS 127C	Arts of Modern China
VIS 127D*	Early Chinese Painting
VIS 127E*	Later Chinese Painting
VIS 127F*	Japanese Buddhist Art
VIS 127G*	20 th Century Chinese Art
VIS 127GS+	Issues in Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art
VIS 127N	20 th Century Art in China and Japan
VIS 127P	Arts of Japan
VIS 127Q*	Japanese Painting and Prints
VIS 128E	Topics in Art History of Asia
VIS 129E*	Seminar in Art History of Asia

F. Theory

VIS 113AN*	History of Criticism I: Early Modern
VIS 113BN*	History of Criticism II: Early Twentieth Century (1900-1950)
VIS 113CN*	History of Criticism III: Contemporary (1950-Present)
VIS 114A*	Landscape and Memory
VIS 114B*	The Fragment: Uses and Theories
VIS 114GS*+	Arts and Visual Culture in China
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

GROUP III: ELECTIVES (5 courses/20 units)

Choose three from:

A-F Distribution

AND

Choose two from:

- Any upper-division art history course(s) in history or theory
- Any upper-division course(s) in media history and criticism
- Upper-division courses in studio or media production
- Two, 2-unit Curatorial Practices Workshop courses (**VIS128P**) count as one course towards the fulfillment of an elective
- One upper-division course in a related department or program such as Anthropology, History, Literature, Critical Gender Studies (*with permission of art history faculty advisor*).

Honors Program in Art History

VIS 129G*	Art History Honors Seminar
VIS 129H*	Art History Honors Directed Group Study

The completion of both the Art History Honors Seminar and the Art History Honors Directed Group Study counts as one course towards the fulfillment of the Group III: Elective Requirement.

Students who meet the criteria may, with permission of the art history faculty advisor or the Art History Honors Seminar instructor, enroll in the Art History Honors Program during the last quarter of their junior year or as a senior. This program is open to juniors and seniors who meet eligibility requirements. Please consult with the departmental advisor for these requirements.

NOTES: Students must take at least three upper-division seminars in addition to VIS 112. These three additional seminars may come from any area and be taken in fulfillment of the distribution requirements or as open electives.

Art history majors cannot enroll in more than one upper-division seminar without having completed Information Technologies in Art History (VIS 23) and Art Historical Methods (VIS 112).

*In accordance with standard university policy, the department requires that students take 2/3 of the courses in their major at UCSD. **The distribution requirement must be fulfilled with courses taken at UCSD.** Courses taken abroad or at other US institutions do not count towards, and will not be substituted for, the six course distribution requirement.*

+Courses labeled GS are Global Seminars, which are only offered during the summer.