ART HISTORY/THEORY/CRITICISM MAJOR
For Students Declared Fall 2016 and Later

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

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 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 124BN Art and the Enlightenment
VIS 128B Topics in Early Modern Art History

C. Modern and Contemporary
VIS 124CN Nineteenth Century Art
VIS 125A Twentieth Century Art
VIS 125BN Contemporary Art
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 153 Genre Series
VIS 154 Hard Look at the Movies
VIS 155 The Director Series
VIS 156 Latino American Cinema
VIS 158 Histories of Photography
VIS 159 History of Art and Technology

Major Code: VA26

(rev. 05 October 2018)
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 126D Topics in Art History of the Americas

E. Arts of Asia

VIS 127A Contemporary Arts in South Korea
VIS 127B Arts of China
VIS 127C Arts of Modern China
VIS 127N 20th 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

ADVANCED LEVEL (5 courses/20 units)

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* 20th 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