Art History & Visual Studies (B.A.)

This degree offers its majors a solid foundation in the art and visual cultures of Africa, Asia, and the Western tradition, with advanced courses that present differing approaches to both art history and visual studies. A major in Art History & Visual Studies provides a solid liberal arts education with a strong emphasis on skills in visual literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, and written and oral communication that are required for virtually any career path. The program also equips majors with advanced skills in visual analysis and research.

All majors are required to take a shared art history core of 15 credits. In consultation with their advisor, majors organize their upper-division course work around one of three options: art history, museum studies, or visual studies. Each upper-division option offers a tailored combination of upper-division art history and visual studies courses, foreign language study, and cognate courses in other disciplines. The required capstone course should be taken after majors have completed at least 21 credits of major courses, preferably at the beginning of their last year of course work. The curriculum includes a generous number of electives. If majors plan effectively, they may be able to take a broad range of courses and earn a minor or second major in another discipline.

Any student earning a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree must complete a minimum of 39 hours at the 300 or above level. Depending on the option selected, at least 27 of the 39 hours are completed by the major requirements. However, students should keep this requirement in mind as they select their courses.

UK Core Requirements

See the UK Core section of the 2013-2014 Undergraduate Bulletin for the complete UK Core requirements. Although the School of Art and Visual Studies offers courses in four of the ten UK Core Areas, majors may not use more than six credit hours of courses required for the Art History & Visual Studies major to also satisfy the UK Core Area requirements.

I. Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity
Choose one:
A-S 102 Two-Dimensional Surface .................................................... 3
A-S 103 Three-Dimensional Form ........................................................ 3

II. Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities
Choose one:
A-H 101 Introduction to Visual Studies ................................................ 3
A-H 106 Renaissance Through Modern Art ............................................ 3

III. Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences
Choose one course from approved list .................................................. 3

IV. Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences
Choose one course from approved list .................................................. 3

V. Composition and Communication I
CIS/WRD 110 Composition and Communication I .................................. 3

VI. Composition and Communication II
CIS/WRD 111 Composition and Communication II .................................. 3

VII. Quantitative Foundations
Choose one course from approved list .................................................. 3

VIII. Statistical Inferential Reasoning
Choose one course from approved list .................................................. 3

IX. Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA
A-H 360 Visual Culture of Politics ......................................................... 3

X. Global Dynamics
A-H 104 African Art and Its Global Impact
or
A-H 311 The Arts as Soft Power: The Japanese Tea Ceremony ............... 3

UK Core hours ......................................................................................... 30

Graduation Writing Requirement
After attaining sophomore status, students must complete a Graduation Writing Requirement course.

Subtotal: Graduation Writing Requirement hours .................................. 3

College Requirements
Music, Theatre and/or Arts Administration ........................................... 6
plus 39 hours at 300-level or above
Subtotal: College Required hours ......................................................... 6

Premajor Requirements

The premajor requirements enable students to develop their abilities to observe, describe, and identify visual images, objects, and structures utilizing a shared vocabulary, and to analyze and interpret them in relation to particular cultural and historical circumstances.

Select one of the following (3 credit hours):
A-H 101 Introduction to Visual Studies .................................................. 3
A-H 106 Renaissance Through Modern Art ............................................ 3

Select one additional course from the following (3 credit hours):
A-H 101 Introduction to Visual Studies .................................................. 3
A-H 102 Introduction to Asian Art ......................................................... 3
A-H 104 African Art and Its Global Impact ............................................. 3
A-H 105 Ancient through Medieval ...................................................... 3
A-H 106 Renaissance Through Modern Art ............................................ 3

Plus one of the following (3 credit hours):
A-S 102 Two-Dimensional Surface ....................................................... 3
A-S 103 Three-Dimensional Form ....................................................... 3
A-S 130 Drawing ................................................................. 3
A-S 200 Introduction to Digital Art, Space, and Time ......................... 3
Subtotal: Premajor hours ........................................................................ 9

Major Requirements

To complete this major, students must fulfill the following:

• the shared curriculum core of Art History & Visual Studies courses (15 credit hours)
Art History & Visual Studies (B.A.) • 2

- one of the three options in the major described below (33 credit hours);  
- a capstone course (3 credit hours)  
- electives (21 credit hours)

Shared Curriculum Core
Courses from the five shared curriculum core groups are designed to provide students with a broad knowledge of major developments in art history and visual studies. Students will develop skills in visual analysis, research methods, problem solving, and writing and oral communication.

Subtotal: Shared Curriculum Core .................................15

Select one course from each of the five following groups:

Non-Western Art & Visual Studies (3 credit hours)
A-H 308 Studies in African Arts (Subtitle required) ..........................3  
A-H 310 Asian Art and Culture (Subtitle required) ..........................3  
A-H 311 The Arts as Soft Power: The Japanese Tea Ceremony .........3

Ancient and Medieval Art & Visual Studies (3 credit hours)
A-H 314 Ancient (Subtitle required) ..................................................3  
A-H 323 Medieval (Subtitle required) ..................................................3

Renaissance and Early Modern Art & Visual Studies (3 credit hours)
A-H 334 Reframing Renaissance Art ..................................................3  
A-H 335 Early Modern Art & Visual Culture, 1400-1700 (Subtitle required) ...............3

18th and 19th Century Art & Visual Studies (3 credit hours)
A-H 339 Art & Visual Culture 1700-1840 (Subtitle required) ..........3  
A-H 340 Art & Visual Culture 1840-1914 (Subtitle required) ..........3

Modern Art & Visual Studies (3 credit hours)
A-H 341 20th Century (Subtitle required) .............................................3  
A-H 342 Modern American Art & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) ..........3  
A-H 350 Contemporary Art (Subtitle required) .................................3

Students may petition the College to substitute the following courses to fulfill the corresponding historical core category above when the focus of the subtitle is appropriate:

A-H 300 Topics in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) ..........3  
A-H 301 Cross-Cultural Topics in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) ..........3

Option in the Major (select one)
Each of the three options in the major assumes a sound knowledge of art history and visual studies provided by the shared curriculum core. Each requires a foreign language requirement, upper-division art history courses, and courses in one or more cognate disciplines. Majors will want to consult with their advisor in the Art History & Visual Studies program to select the path that best serves their future goals.

Art History Option (33 credit hours)
This option focuses on the development of the visual arts, particularly on the histories of "high" or "fine" art within a broad liberal arts tradition. Students study artistic images, objects, and events representing diverse cultures within a global context. This option provides majors with historical, methodological, and theoretical knowledge to interpret visual forms as expressions of historical and cultural circumstances.

The program puts strong emphasis on the acquisition of skills in written and oral communication, foreign language comprehension, critical reading, and problem solving, all leading to the pursuit of independent scholarship in art history. These are skills useful for virtually any career path, but specifically, this option prepares majors to pursue postgraduate studies in art history and related humanistic disciplines, leading to careers in academia, arts administration, visual resources, museum professions, and similar fields.

Students who have selected the Art History option are required to have taken A-H 106, Renaissance through Modern Art, which is offered as a premajor requirement option.

Foreign Language (6-7 credit hours)
Complete one of the following sequences beyond the UK foreign language requirement:

Option A: Successful completion of the fourth college semester of one foreign language, German or French recommended. (Note: This may be accomplished by scoring at this level on a placement test for previous work in the foreign language.)

Option B: Successful completion of the third college semester course of one foreign language and the second college semester course of a second language. (Note: Either or both may be accomplished by scoring at the appropriate level on a placement test for previous work in the foreign languages selected.)

Option C: Demonstrate equivalent competence. Students for whom English is a second language, for instance, may use their native language to fulfill this requirement.

Upper-Division Art History & Visual Studies Courses (12 credit hours)
Select one of the following courses designed to provide students with direct experience with the art object through either a museum practicum or appropriate course offering:

A-H 399 Experiential Education in Art History & Visual Studies ........3  
A-H 501 Museum Studies I: Introduction ..............................................3  
A-H 502 Museum Studies I: Internship ..................................................3  
A-H 503 Art History Through the Art Object (Subtitle required) ..........3  
A-H 504 Practical Issues in Art History (Subtitle required) ..................3

Plus at least three Art History & Visual Studies courses at the 300 level or above, of which at least two must be from the following seminar areas. To fulfill the requirement, students must select two different seminar numbers (not the same seminar number with different subtitles). These courses provide students with differing perspectives and approaches to the study of the visual arts. Courses may explore interdisciplinary aspects of art history and visual studies, concentrate on an in-depth study of a specialized topic or period, or provide other frameworks beyond the traditional canon.

A-H 524 Theory and Methods (Subtitle required) ...............................3  
A-H 525 Studies in Genres and Media (Subtitle required) ....................3  
A-H 526 Art and the Artist in Society (Subtitle required) ......................3  
A-H 527 Interdisciplinary Approaches (Subtitle required) ....................3  
A-H 528 Topical Seminar in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) .....3  
A-H 529 Topical Seminar in Architectural or Design History (Subtitle required) ....3

Cognate Courses (15 credit hours)
Students must complete fifteen hours in courses in anthropology, art studio, arts administration, art professions, classics, history, history of film, history of interior design, history of theatre, literature, music, or philosophy. Foreign language courses over and above the foreign language requirement for the art history option are also encouraged.
Capstone Course (3 credit hours)
Students will demonstrate a broad knowledge of art history and visual studies as well as skills in research and written and oral communication.

A-H 555 Methods in Art History & Visual Studies .................................................. 3

Electives
In addition, students must choose 21 hours of free electives.

Subtotal: Electives ........................................................................................................ 21

TOTAL HOURS: ........................................................................................................ minimum of 120

Museum Studies Option (33 credit hours)
This option introduces majors to museology and the variety of careers available within or related to the museum profession. Majors examine the processes by which objects or events are interpreted within the context of museums and the roles that museums, broadly defined, play in society. Courses provide a historical and theoretical overview of museums and examine the critical issues confronting museums in the contemporary world. Museum Studies also establishes a bridge between theory and practice by requiring an experiential education component.

Students who choose this option are interested in working with the art object and often pursue further training leading to careers in galleries, museums of all kinds, auction houses or other institutions which present images, objects or events.

Students who have selected the Museum Studies option are required to have taken A-H 106, Renaissance through Modern Art, offered as an option for a premajor requirement, and A-H 350, Contemporary, offered as an option in the Modern Art & Visual Studies group of the shared curriculum core

Foreign Language
The UK foreign language requirement satisfies the Museum Studies option. The requirement states that any first-year freshman or transfer student must demonstrate that they have completed two high school credits in a single foreign language, or two semesters at the postsecondary level. A student who has not completed the high school foreign language requirement will be required to take a two-semester foreign language at UK prior to graduation.

Upper-Division School of Art and Visual Studies Courses (18 credit hours)
A-H 501 Museum Studies I: Introduction ................................................................. 3
A-E 560 Museum Education ..................................................................................... 3

Plus three of the following:
A-H 399 Experiential Education in Art History & Visual Studies ..................... 3
A-H 502 Museum Studies II: Internship ................................................................. 3
A-H 503 Art History through the Art Object (Subtitle required) ......................... 3
A-H 504 Practical Issues in Art History (Subtitle required) .................................. 3
A-E 550 Community Art Education ....................................................................... 3
A-H 529 Topical Seminar in Architectural or Design History (Subtitle required) .......................................................................................... 3

Plus one of the following:
A-H 524 Theory and Methods (Subtitle required) .................................................... 3
A-H 525 Studies in Genres and Media (Subtitle required) ..................................... 3
A-H 526 Art and the Artist in Society (Subtitle required) ....................................... 3
A-H 527 Interdisciplinary Approaches (Subtitle required) .................................... 3
A-H 528 Topical Seminar in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) ........ 3
A-H 555 Methods in Art History & Visual Studies .................................................. 3

Cognate Courses (15 credit hours)
Select five from the following. No more than three cognate courses may be from one discipline.

Anthropology
ANT 450 Symbols and Culture ................................................................................. 3

Art
The art studio courses taken to satisfy the premajor requirement may not be used as a cognate course.
A-S 102 Two-Dimensional Surface ........................................................................ 3
A-S 103 Three-Dimensional Form ......................................................................... 3
A-S 130 Drawing ....................................................................................................... 3
A-S 200 Introduction to Digital Art, Space and Time ............................................. 3

Arts Administration
AAD 200 Arts Administration Communications .................................................. 3
AAD 202 Graphic Design for Print and the Web ...................................................... 3
AAD 310 Marketing the Arts .................................................................................... 3
AAD 320 Fund Raising for the Arts ........................................................................ 3
AAD 340 Arts Management Issues ......................................................................... 3
AAD 402 Topics in Arts Administration (Subtitle required) ................................. 3

Communication
COM 181 Basic Public Speaking ............................................................................. 3
COM 287 Persuasive Speaking .................................................................................. 3
COM 325 Introduction to Organizational Communication ................................... 3

English
WRD 203 Business Writing ...................................................................................... 3

Foreign Languages
Any course/courses beyond the UK foreign language requirement.

Interior Design
ID 161 History and Theory of Interior Environments I ........................................ 3
ID 162 History and Theory of Interior Environments II ....................................... 3

Merchandising, Apparel, and Textiles
MAT 247 Dress and Culture .................................................................................... 3

Visual Studies Option (33 credit hours)
Ours is a visual culture. Workplaces today are visually saturated environments, our dominant pastimes are visual media (films, television, video, the Internet, etc.); knowledge is commonly communicated visually. Visual Studies teach critical viewing to prepare us for the visually complex milieu of the 21st Century. As contrasted with traditional humanistic scholarship that focuses on “high” or “fine” art, visual studies are more broadly based, reaching more fully into everyday life to deal with all aspects of culture that communicate through visual means, from paintings and film to advertising and Web sites.
This option offers majors a broad interdisciplinary selection of courses and methodologies from the arts, design, humanities, social sciences, and sciences to study the uses to which people put the visual and the place of the visual within the context of the whole culture. Visual studies ideally examine production and consumption of images, objects, and events in diverse cultures and within a global context.

Students who choose this option could pursue further training leading to careers in visual resource management, law, journalism, or may pursue graduate work in visual studies, cultural studies, film studies, and art history. Students who select the Visual Studies option are required to have taken A-H 101, Introduction to Visual Studies, offered as an option for the premajor requirement.

Foreign Language
The UK foreign language requirement satisfies the Visual Studies option. The requirement states that any first-year freshman or transfer student must demonstrate that they have completed two high school credits in a single foreign language, or two semesters at the postsecondary level. A student who has not completed the high school foreign language requirement will be required to take a two-semester foreign language at UK prior to graduation.

Upper-Division Art History & Visual Studies Courses (6 credit hours)
Select two of the following. To satisfy this requirement, courses must have a different subtitle from those used to satisfy the shared curriculum core, cognate, or capstone requirements:
- A-H 300 Topics in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 301 Cross-Cultural Topics in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 399 Experiential Education in Art History & Visual Studies .... 3
- A-H 503 Art History Through the Art Object (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 504 Practical Issues in Art History (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 524 Theory and Methods (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 525 Studies in Genres and Media (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 527 Interdisciplinary Approaches (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 528 Topical Seminar in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) .... 3
- A-H 529 Topical Seminar in Architectural or Design History (Subtitle required) .... 3

Cognate Courses (27 credit hours)
For this requirement, select nine courses from the following suggested courses. In consultation with their advisors, students may identify and propose other courses relevant to visual studies that may fulfill this requirement. Students must file a College of Fine Arts petition form for approval of any substitution of an alternate course with the College of Fine Arts Dean’s Office. At least three of the course selections must be at the 300 level or above; students should bear in mind that some of the courses listed below may have prerequisites. No more than three cognate courses may be from one discipline (ENG, A-S, ANT, etc.).

Anthropology
ANT 450 Symbols and Culture ............................................................. 3

Art
Art History: any course at the 300 level or above not taken to satisfy another major requirement.
Art Studio: any course; courses involving digital media, such as A-S 200, A-S 280, A-S 345 and A-S 346 are encouraged.

Classics
CLA 135 Greek and Roman Mythology ................................................. 3
CLA 210 The Art of Greece and Rome .................................................. 3

Communication
COM 101 Introduction to Communications ......................................... 3
COM 249 Mass Media and Mass Culture ............................................. 3
COM 449 Mass Media and Social Influence ........................................ 3
COM 453 Digital and Mass Communication Media Literacy ................ 3
ISC 161 Introduction to Integrated Strategic Communication .......... 3
ISC 319 World Media Systems ........................................................... 3
MAS 520 Social Effects of the Mass Media .......................................... 3

Design
To register, instructor approval is required.
ARC 212 History and Theory I: 15th-17th Centuries ......................... 3
ARC 213 History and Theory II: 18th-19th Centuries ......................... 3
ARC 314 History and Theory III: 20th Century and Contemporary Architecture .... 3
ARC 315 World Architecture and Urbanism ........................................ 3
ARC 511 History and Theory Seminar: Pre-20th Century (Subtitle required) ...... 3
ARC 512 History and Theory Seminar: Modern (Subtitle required) .... 3
ARC 513 History and Theory Seminar: Contemporary (Subtitle required) .... 3

Film Studies
Offered by various language departments/areas.
CHI 321 Introduction to Contemporary Chinese Film .............................. 3
CLA 100 Ancient Stories in Modern Films ........................................... 3
ENG 280 Introduction to Film ............................................................. 3
ENG 284 History of Film I ................................................................. 3
ENG 285 History of Film II ............................................................... 3
ENG 480 Studies in Film (Subtitle required) ........................................ 3
FR 103 French Cinema ...................................................................... 3
GER 105 German Film Today ............................................................ 3
GER 361 German Cinema ................................................................. 3
RUS 375 Seminar in Russian Film ...................................................... 3
SPA 371 Latin American Cinema (Subtitle required) ......................... 3
SPA 372 Spanish Cinema (Subtitle required) ....................................... 3
JPN 283 Japanese Film ................................................................. 3

History
HIS 597 Westerners in East Asia, 1839 to the Present ....................... 3

Interior Design
ID 161 History and Theory of Interior Environments I ....................... 3
ID 162 History and Theory of Interior Environments II ....................... 3

Journalism
JOU 455 Mass Media and Diversity (Subtitle required) .................... 3

Landscape Architecture
LA 205 History of Landscape Architecture ......................................... 3

Merchandising, Apparel, and Textiles
MAT 247 Dress and Culture ............................................................... 3

Russian
RUS 271 Russian Culture, 1900-Present .......................................... 3
RUS 370 Russian Folklore (in English) ............................................. 3

Capstone Course (3 credit hours)
At least one capstone course in Art History & Visual Studies will be offered each semester and so designated in the Schedule of Classes. A-H 555 Methods in Art History & Visual Studies, offered once each year, always serves as a capstone course. Students will demonstrate a broad knowledge of art history and visual studies as well as skills in research and written and oral communication.
Electives
In addition, students must choose 21 hours of free electives.

Subtotal:  Electives ......................................................... 21
TOTAL HOURS: ....................................................... minimum of 120