Art History & Visual Studies (B.A.)

College of Fine Arts

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 two options: art history or visual studies.

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.

College Requirements
Music, Theatre and/or Arts Administration .................................................. 6

Subtotal: College Required hours ............................................................... 6

UK Core Requirements
See the UK Core section of the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Bulletin for the complete UK Core requirements. The courses listed below are (a) recommended by the college, or (b) required courses that also fulfill UK Core areas. Students should work closely with their advisor to complete the UK Core requirements.

I. Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity
Choose one of the following courses, or a course from the approved list:
A-S 102 2D ..................................................................................................... 3
A-S 103 3D ..................................................................................................... 3

II. Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities
Choose one of the following courses, or a course from the approved list:
A-H 101 Introduction to Visual Studies .......................................................... 3
A-H 105 World Art Before 1400 .................................................................... 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
Choose one of the following courses, or a course from the approved list:
A-H 360 Visual Culture of Politics ................................................................. 3

X. Global Dynamics
Choose one of the following courses, or a course from the approved list:
A-H 304 African Art and Its Global Impact .................................................... 3

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

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR)
Choose one of the following courses, or a course from the approved list:
A-H 300 Topics in Art History and Visual Studies (Subtitle required) .......... 3

Subtotal: GCCR hours .................................................................................. 3

Premajor Requirements

Hours

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.

All students take the following (3 credit hours):
A-H 106 Renaissance to Modern Art ............................................................. 3

Plus one of the following (see requirements for the Art History or Visual Studies options for majors below; 3 credit hours):
A-H 101 Introduction to Visual Studies ....................................................... 3
A-H 105 World Art Before 1400 ................................................................. 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)
• one of two 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 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

University of Kentucky is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, call 404-679-4500, or online at www.sacscoc.org for questions about the accreditation of University of Kentucky.
All students must take:
A-H 300 Topics in Art History and Visual Studies (Subtitle required) .............................. 3

Select four more courses, including at least one course from each of the following three groups:

**Art & Visual Studies of Non-Western Cultures**
- A-H 308 Studies in African Arts (Subtitle required) .................................................. 3
- A-H 310 Asian Art and Culture (Subtitle required) .................................................. 3

**Art & Visual Studies of Europe Before the Modern Era**
- A-H 314 Ancient (Subtitle required) .......................................................................... 3
- A-H 323 Medieval (Subtitle required) ......................................................................... 3
- A-H 334 Reframing Renaissance Art .......................................................................... 3
- A-H 335 Early Modern Art & Visual Culture, 1400-1700 (Subtitle required) .......... 3

**Art & Visual Studies of the Modern Era**
- A-H 339 Art & Visual Culture 1700-1840 (Subtitle required) ................................. 3
- A-H 340 Art & Visual Culture 1840-1914 (Subtitle required) ................................. 3
- A-H 341 20th Century (Subtitle required) .................................................................. 3
- A-H 342 American Art & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) ...................................... 3
- A-H 350 Contemporary Art and Visual Studies (Subtitle required) ......................... 3
- A-H 360 Visual Culture of Politics ............................................................................. 3

Students may petition the College to substitute the following course to fulfill the corresponding historical core category above when the focus of the subtitle is appropriate:
- A-H 301 Cross-Cultural Topics in Art History & Visual Studies (Subtitle required) . 3

**Option in the Major (select one)**

Both of the options in the major assume a sound knowledge of art history and visual studies provided by the shared curriculum core. Each requires upper-division art history courses and courses in one or more cognate disciplines. Majors should 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 artworks within a broad liberal arts tradition. Students study artistic images, objects, complexes and events representing diverse cultures within a global context. It provides majors with historical, methodological, and theoretical knowledge to interpret visual forms as expressions of historical periods and cultural values.

The discipline of art history 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. These skills are useful for virtually any career path, including law and international business. However, this option specifically prepares majors to pursue post-graduate studies in art history, curatorial studies, and related humanistic disciplines, leading to careers in academia, arts administration, visual resource management, museum and curatorial professions, and similar fields.

Students who have selected the Art History option are required to take A-H 105, World Art Before 1400, 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 502 Museum Studies I: Internship ................................................................. 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 seminars listed below. 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

**Cognitive Courses** (15 credit hours)

Students must complete 15 hours in courses identified in consultation with their advisors to provide context or address skills related to their course work in art history and visual studies. Such courses can come from – but are not limited to – anthropology, art studio, arts administration, classics, history, history of film, history of interior design, history of theatre, literature, music, aesthetics 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**

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Upper-Division Art History & Visual Studies Courses (12 credit hours)
Select four of the following. To satisfy this requirement, courses must have a different subtitle from those used to satisfy the shared curriculum core, or cognate 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 350 Contemporary Art and Visual Studies (Subtitle required) 3
A-H 360 Visual Culture of Politics (Subtitle required) 3
A-H 399 Experiential Education in Art History & Visual Studies 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 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 (21 credit hours)
Students must complete 21 hours in courses identified in consultation with their advisors that have a significant visual component, and do not have an A-H or ART prefix. These courses will have topics associated with visual or material culture, visual analysis, or aesthetics, and can come from areas such as – but not limited to – visual or material anthropology, art, architecture and design, film studies, and fashion studies. At least three of these courses must be at the 300 level or above; students should bear in mind that some of the courses may have prerequisites. No more than three cognate courses may be in the same practice-based area of study (such as art studio, architecture studio design, arts administration, or communication).

Capstone Course (3 credit hours)
A-H 555 Methods in Art History & Visual Studies 3
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