

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
plus 39 hours at 300-level or above	
Subtotal: College Required hours	6

UK Core Requirements

See the UK Core section of the *2017-2018 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**:

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 105 World Art Before 1400	3

III. Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences

Choose one course from approved list

IV. Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences

Choose one course from approved list

V. Composition and Communication I

CIS/WRD 110 Composition and Communication I

VI. Composition and Communication II

CIS/WRD 111 Composition and Communication II

VII. Quantitative Foundations

Choose one course from approved list

VIII. Statistical Inferential Reasoning

Choose one course from approved list

IX. Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA

A-H 360 Visual Culture of Politics

X. Global Dynamics

Choose **one**:

A-H 304 African Art and Its Global Impact	3
A-H 311 The Arts as Soft Power: The Japanese Tea Ceremony	3

UK Core hours

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR)

A-H 555 Methods in Art History and Visual Studies

Subtotal: GCCR hours

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

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

A-H 105 World Art Before 1400

Plus one of the following (3 credit hours):

A-S 102 Two-Dimensional Surface

A-S 103 Three-Dimensional Form

A-S 130 Drawing

A-S 200 Introduction to Digital Art, Space and Time

Subtotal: Premajor hours

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 three 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

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

Art & Visual Studies of Non-Western Cultures

A-H 304 African Art and Its Global Impact

A-H 308 Studies in African Arts (Subtitle required)

A-H 310 Asian Art and Culture (Subtitle required)

A-H 311 The Arts as Soft Power: The Japanese Tea Ceremony

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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 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)

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

Students who have selected the Art History option are required to have taken 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 501 Museum Studies I: Introduction	3
A-H 502 Museum Studies I: Internship	3

A-H 504 Practical Issues in Art History (Subtitle required)	3
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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 15 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
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Electives

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

Subtotal: Electives

TOTAL HOURS:

Visual Studies Option (33 credit hours)

Ours is a visual culture. Workplaces today are visually saturated environments, our dominant pastimes are visual media; knowledge is commonly communicated visually. Visual Studies teach critical viewing to prepare us for the visually complex milieu of the 21st Century. They are broadly based, reaching 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 culture as a whole. Visual studies examine production and consumption of images and events in diverse cultures and within a global context.

Students who choose this option may pursue further training leading to emerging careers in the "creative economy", especially those involved with the creation, dissemination, manipulation and retrieval of images. They may also pursue graduate work in visual studies, cultural studies, and film studies.

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.

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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	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)

In consultation with their advisors, students must identify and propose courses relevant to visual studies that do not have an A-H prefix. At least three of these course selections 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 from one discipline (ENG, A-S, ANT, etc.).

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**