



Twin Cities Campus

Art History B.A.

Art History

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2019
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 33 to 35
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Art history is the study of the visual world, both past and present. It looks closely at a wide array of images, objects, buildings, and sites in order to better understand human societies. Art history operates with the understanding that visual/material artifacts may speak more directly and deeply about a culture than its written record. Put another way, if a picture is worth a thousand words, then art history equips students to read it. This is called "visual literacy" and it is an invaluable skill in our increasingly visual world.

Students in art history learn to analyze a wide variety of artifacts from all geographic regions and historical eras, including our own. Not limited strictly to the so-called "fine arts," art history seeks to understand visual and material culture more broadly: from paintings and sculpture, to architecture and urban design; from films and photographs, to ceramics and textiles; from scientific illustration and political posters, to performance art and street graffiti. Through engaging closely with these and other forms of visual expression, students of art history become adept practitioners of the following skills: visual analysis and interpretation, original research and careful argumentation, image-based thinking and communication, and clear and persuasive writing in a variety of modes (e.g., analytical, creative, and journalistic).

Engaging visual approaches to learning and thinking, art history prepares a diverse student body for a variety of professional tracks. Graduates from this major go on to enjoy careers in the following fields: visual arts (e.g., art criticism, art appraisal and sales, art therapy, fashion, interior design, museums, and conservation), the humanities (e.g., grant writing, historic preservation, and philanthropy), media and marketing (e.g., advertising, film, journalism, radio, and television), K-12 and post-secondary education (e.g., teaching and administration), information science and collections management (e.g., libraries and archives in public, non-profit, and corporate contexts), and medicine and law, two fields that have long prized art history alumni for their analytical precision, skills at information mastery, and "right-brain/left-brain" balance. For these and other reasons, students of art history go on to enjoy higher job satisfaction and lower unemployment rates over the course of their working lives than peers in vocational tracks.

Majors in art history are required to fulfill a variety of distribution requirements across geographic regions and historical eras (see below); one studio art class is also required for the major. Most classes have no prerequisites. The amount of required credits for the major makes it an attractive option for double-majors and transfer students. Students considering pursuing graduate-level work in the discipline should aim to take more than the required two 5xxx-level courses, with as many professors in the department as possible; they should also strongly consider making French or German their chosen foreign language.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the [Office of Admissions website](#).

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the [liberal education requirements](#). Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

CLA BA degrees require 18 upper-division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the Art History BA is ARTH.

Students are encouraged to take courses from a variety of instructors to ensure exposure to various approaches and methods.



Art history is an immensely broad discipline. It spans all eras of human production and expression, in all areas of the globe. To expose students to the variety of sub-fields within art history, and the ways in which these sub-fields examine different swaths of history and geography, the department requires all students to take classes satisfying different chronological and regional distributions. See the Art History Electives requirement for more details.

The department's curriculum is structured so that classes at the 1xxx-level provide a large-scale orientation to the discipline at large, as well as instruction in rudimentary skills of research and writing; classes at the 3xxx-level offer orientations to the discipline's sub-fields, as well as instruction in rudimentary and intermediary skills of research and writing; and classes at the 5xxx-level offer specialization within the sub-fields, as well as instruction in advanced skills of research and writing. Students are encouraged to begin taking classes at the 5xxx-level as soon as the second semester of their junior year to prepare for the capstone course.

At least 13 upper-division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus.

Students may earn a BA or a minor in art history, but not both.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

Art History Foundation

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 - 4 credit(s) from the following:

- [ARTH 1001](#) - Introduction to Western Art [AH] (4.0 cr)
or [ARTH 1002W](#) - Why Art Matters [AH, GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
or [ARTH 1004W](#) - Introduction to Asian Art [HIS, WI] (4.0 cr)

Art Practice

This course must be hands-on, and focused on the practice, rather than the history, of art. Other courses not on the list may fulfill this requirement, but only with prior approval from the undergraduate advisor or director of undergraduate studies.

Take 1 or more course(s) totaling 3 - 4 credit(s) from the following:

- [ARTS 1101](#) - Introduction to Drawing [AH] (4.0 cr)
- [ARTS 1102](#) - Introduction to Painting [AH] (4.0 cr)
- [ARTS 1802](#) - Introduction to Sculpture: Understanding the Fundamentals of the Practice of Sculpture [AH] (4.0 cr)
- [ARTS 1103](#) - Introduction to Printmaking: Relief, Screen and Digital Processes [AH] (4.0 cr)
- [ARTS 1704](#) - Introduction to Moving Images [AH] (4.0 cr)
- [ARTS 1701](#) - Introduction to Photography [AH] (4.0 cr)
- [ARTS 1801](#) - Introduction to Ceramics: Wheel-Throwing and Hand-Building Techniques [AH] (4.0 cr)

Art History Electives

To achieve training across the discipline and its skills, students must meet the following distribution requirements:

Level Distribution Requirements:

- (0-1) 1xxx-level course
- (0-6) 3xxx-level courses
- (2-8) 5xxx-level courses

Chronological and Geographic Distribution Requirements:

- Take at least 1 course from each of the three historical eras
 - Take at least 1 course from at least two of the three geographical areas
- Take exactly 8 course(s) totaling 24 or more credit(s) from the following:

Era I: Ancient to ca. 1300

Take 1 or more course(s) from the following:

Area: North America and Europe

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- [ARTH 3009](#) - Intersectional Medieval Art [AH] (3.0 cr)
or [MEST 3009](#) - Intersectional Medieval Art [AH] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3152](#) - Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece [HIS] (3.0 cr)
or [CNRC 3152](#) - Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3162](#) - Roman Art and Archaeology [HIS] (3.0 cr)
or [CNRC 3162](#) - Roman Art and Archaeology [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 5783](#) ~~(Inactive)~~ (3.0 cr)
or [ARTH 8783](#) - Art, Diplomacy, and Empire (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 5787](#) - Visual Cultures in Contact: Cross-Cultural Interaction in the Ancient World (3.0 cr)
or [CNRC 5787](#) - Visual Cultures in Contact: Cross-Cultural Interaction in the Ancient World (3.0 cr)

Area: Middle East and/or Islamic World

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- [ARTH 3018](#) - Art of the Ottoman Empire (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3015W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)



- or [RELS 3706W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3182](#) - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
 - or [CNRC 3182](#) - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 3182](#) - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5115](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - or [CNES 5185](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5192](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - or [CNES 5192](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5783](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - or [ARTH 8783](#) - Art, Diplomacy, and Empire (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5787](#) - Visual Cultures in Contact: Cross-Cultural Interaction in the Ancient World (3.0 cr)
 - or [CNRC 5787](#) - Visual Cultures in Contact: Cross-Cultural Interaction in the Ancient World (3.0 cr)
- **Area: South and/or East Asia**
Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
- [ARTH 1004W](#) - Introduction to Asian Art [HIS, WI] (4.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3013](#) ~~{Inactive}~~[GP] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5765](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3014W](#) - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - or [AMES 3014W](#) ~~{Inactive}~~[AH, GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 3415W](#) - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5787](#) - Visual Cultures in Contact: Cross-Cultural Interaction in the Ancient World (3.0 cr)
 - or [CNRC 5787](#) - Visual Cultures in Contact: Cross-Cultural Interaction in the Ancient World (3.0 cr)
- **Era II: ca. 1300 to 1800**
Take 1 or more course(s) from the following:
- Area: North America and Europe**
Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
- [ARTH 3309](#) - Renaissance Art in Europe [AH] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3311](#) - Baroque Art in Seventeenth Century Europe [AH] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3312](#) - European Art of the Eighteenth Century: Rococo to Revolution [HIS] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5301](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5324](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5336](#) - Transformations in 17th Century Art: Caravaggio, Velazquez, and Bernini (3.0 cr)
 - [FRIT 3600](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3015W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 3706W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3315](#) - The Age of Curiosity: Art, Science & Technology in Europe, 1400-1800 [AH, TS] (3.0 cr)
 - or [HIST 3708](#) - The Age of Curiosity: Art, Science & Technology in Europe, 1400-1800 [AH, TS] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3335](#) - Baroque Rome: Art and Politics in the Papal Capital [HIS] (3.0 cr)
 - or [ARTH 5335](#) - Baroque Rome: Art and Politics in the Papal Capital (3.0 cr)
 - or [HIST 3706](#) - Baroque Rome: Art and Politics in the Papal Capital [HIS] (3.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 3612](#) - Baroque Rome: Art and Politics in the Papal Capital [HIS] (3.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 5612](#) - Baroque Rome: Art and Politics in the Papal Capital (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5783](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - or [ARTH 8783](#) - Art, Diplomacy, and Empire (3.0 cr)
- **Area: Middle East and/or Islamic World**
Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
- [ARTH 3018](#) - Art of the Ottoman Empire (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5781](#) - Age of Empire: The Mughals, Safavids, and Ottomans (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3015W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 3706W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5783](#) ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
 - or [ARTH 8783](#) - Art, Diplomacy, and Empire (3.0 cr)
- **Area: South and/or East Asia**
Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
- [ARTH 1004W](#) - Introduction to Asian Art [HIS, WI] (4.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3013](#) ~~{Inactive}~~[GP] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 3014W](#) - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - or [AMES 3014W](#) ~~{Inactive}~~[AH, GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 3415W](#) - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
 - [ARTH 5777](#) - The Diversity of Traditions: Indian Empires after 1200 (3.0 cr)
 - or [RELS 5777](#) - The Diversity of Traditions: Indian Empires after 1200 (3.0 cr)
- **Era III: 1800 to Present**
Take 1 or more course(s) from the following:
- Area: North America and Europe**
Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
- [ARTH 1921W](#) - Introduction to Film Study [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)



- ARTH 3005 - Identity and American Art [AH] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3012 - 19th and 20th Century Art (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3401W - Art on Trial [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3434 - Art and the Environment [AH, ENV] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3464 - Art Since 1945 [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3484 ~~{Inactive}~~(4.0 cr)
- ARTH 3577 - Photo Nation: Photography in America [AH] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3921W - Art of the Film [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 3929 - Cinema Now [AH] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5411 ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5413 - Alternative Media: Video, Performance, Digital Art (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5417 ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5466 - Contemporary Art (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5575 - Boom to Bust: American Art from the Roaring Twenties to the Great Depression (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3627 ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
or AFRO 3627 ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 5655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 3655 ~~{Inactive}~~[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3926 - The Cinema of Alfred Hitchcock [AH] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 5926 - The Cinema of Alfred Hitchcock (3.0 cr)

Area: Middle East and/or Islamic World

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- ARTH 3434 - Art and the Environment [AH, ENV] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3464 - Art Since 1945 [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5466 - Contemporary Art (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5781 - Age of Empire: The Mughals, Safavids, and Ottomans (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3015W - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3706W - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)

Area: South and/or East Asia

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- ARTH 3013 ~~{Inactive}~~[GP] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3434 - Art and the Environment [AH, ENV] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3464 - Art Since 1945 [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5466 - Contemporary Art (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3014W - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or AMES 3014W ~~{Inactive}~~[AH, GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
or RELS 3415W - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5777 - The Diversity of Traditions: Indian Empires after 1200 (3.0 cr)
or RELS 5777 - The Diversity of Traditions: Indian Empires after 1200 (3.0 cr)

Courses Requiring Advising Appointment for Application to the Distribution Requirements

The below courses are applicable to the distribution requirements described above, but vary in how they may be applied. Some courses span across time periods and geographic/cultural areas. Consult with the program advisor or director of undergraduate studies to determine which requirements these courses fulfill.

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- ARTH 1001 - Introduction to Western Art [AH] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 1002W - Why Art Matters [AH, GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 19xx - Freshman Seminar
- ARTH 3940 ~~{Inactive}~~(1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- ARTH 5766 - Chinese Painting (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5785 ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5930 ~~{Inactive}~~(3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5950 - Topics: Art History (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3205 ~~{Inactive}~~[AH] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 3205 ~~{Inactive}~~[AH] (3.0 cr)
or ANTH 3205 ~~{Inactive}~~[AH] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3322 ~~{Inactive}~~[AH] (3.0 cr)

Directed Museum Experience, Study, or Research

Take at most 3 credit(s) from the following:

- ARTH 3896 - Directed Professional Experience (1.0 - 2.0 cr)
- ARTH 3993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- ARTH 5993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- ARTH 5994 - Directed Research (1.0 - 4.0 cr)

Capstone

Students are required to develop, research, and write a senior capstone paper (approximately 15 pages), typically based on one of



their 5xxx-level ArthH courses. The Art History capstone will demonstrate student mastery over chosen subject matter, as well as the abilities both to define a question or problem within a chosen field (this may be an historical, intellectual, interpretive, or some other question/problem), and to address it through research, analysis, and argumentation.

To enroll in the course, students need formal permission from the advisor. It is recommended that students take their ARTH 5xxx course at least one semester prior to taking ARTH 3971W/V. Students who double major and choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major may waive the Art History BA capstone, and they do not need to replace the 3 credits.

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:

- [ARTH 3971W](#) - Art History Capstone [WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3971V](#) - Honors: Art History Capstone [WI] (3.0 cr)

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:

- [ARTH 3921W](#) - Art of the Film [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
- AMES 3014W *{Inactive}* [AH, GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
or [ARTH 3014W](#) - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or [RELS 3415W](#) - Art of India [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3015W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or [RELS 3706W](#) - Art of Islam [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3971W](#) - Art History Capstone [WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARTH 3971V](#) - Honors: Art History Capstone [WI] (3.0 cr)