

History of Art

History of art is a constantly evolving discipline devoted to the study of visual arts throughout history and across the globe. Ohio State's Department of History of Art is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the country, offering a wide array of courses in the history and criticism of architecture and the decorative arts, painting, sculpture, photography, video, cinema, and film. Courses in the 200- and 300-levels introduce students to the major monuments of world art and the fundamental principles of art historical investigation and interpretation. In more advanced courses (400-level and above) students develop a deeper understanding of selected movements of world art and of art historical theory and methodology. Instructional emphasis at this level is focused less on the acquisition of factual knowledge and more on the development of analytic and interpretive skills through sustained exercises in critical reading, original research, and oral and written argumentation.

Pursuing History of Art at Ohio State

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in history of art within the Arts and Humanities.

The bachelor's degree in History of Art requires 60 credit hours within the major. The core curriculum is composed of five courses (25 credit hours):

- two introductory courses in Western Art (HA201 and 202)
- one introductory course in either Asian or African Art (HA213 or 216)
- a writing seminar (HA415)
- a course in artistic materials and techniques (HA450) *or* a course in studio art.

In addition, students must take seven courses (35 credit hours) at the 500-level or above; four of these must be distributed over the following areas of study: Central, Western, and Southern Asia; China and Japan; Egypt and Africa; Ancient and Medieval; Renaissance and Baroque; Modern and Contemporary.

In one of these advanced courses (600-level or above), students must produce an analytical paper (10-15 pages) to be presented in fulfillment of the major's Independent Writing Requirement.

It is strongly recommended that students in history of art take courses in a foreign language appropriate to their area of interest.

History of Art minor Requirements

A History of Art minor requires 5 courses (25 credit hours) from the department's offerings. At least two of these courses must be at the 500-level or above.

Educational Objectives

The History of Art program will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Introduce GEC students, potential majors, and beginning declared majors to the basic ideas and major monuments of the world's art.
- Help students develop a beginning understanding of art historical methodology, including the ideas, techniques, historiography, and content of works of art of various periods and regions.
- Develop within the student an understanding of the details of art-historical methodology and approach as related to the content of the specific areas.
- Help students develop a full understanding of the major artistic movements, artists, and other personalities and works of art within the specific areas.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study broad programs to student organizations. In addition to participating in the more than 100 study-abroad programs offered by Ohio State, students are eligible for (sometimes credit-earning) internships at the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Columbus Museum of Art, and a number of art galleries and historic houses in the area. Students may also participate in the many extra-curricular activities (e.g. lectures, workshops, museum visits) organized by HAUS, the recently established History of Art Undergraduate Society.

For more information, check these web sites:

Department of History of Art: history-of-art.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in History of Art. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in History of Art. Consult the departmental web site, history-of-art.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Arts Survey	1
History of Western Art	10
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC (math)	5
GEC (foreign language)	15
GEC (natural sciences)	5
Elective	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	43

Sophomore Year:

Asian or African History of Art	5
Advanced History of Art	5
GEC (history sequence)	10
GEC (visual or performing arts)	5
GEC (foreign language)	0-5
GEC (second-level writing)	5
GEC (natural sciences)	15
Total hours	45-50

Junior Year:

Advanced History of Art	15
Writing Seminar in the History of Art	5
Artistic Media and Techniques	5
GEC (data analysis)	5
GEC (social sciences)	15
GEC (cultures and ideas)	5
Total hours	50

Senior Year:

Advanced History of Art	15
Advanced History of Art Electives	10
GEC (literature)	5
GEC (capstone)	5
Electives 1	4-19
Total hours	45-54

Honors Program

The Department of History of Art offers a number of honors courses, the formats of which are designed to be especially challenging intellectually. Honors students work closely with their faculty advisors and enjoy the benefits of smaller class size and priority scheduling. Majors in history of art who complete an Honors thesis graduate "with distinction."

Visit honors-scholars.osu.edu for more on the Honors program.

Career Prospects in History of Art

Students graduating with a bachelor's degree in History of Art may expect to find employment in a wide variety of cultural and arts organizations, such as publishing firms, art galleries, libraries, and museums. However, a number of professions in art history—most notably museum curators and university professors—require advanced degrees; Ohio State students are regularly accepted into some of the most prestigious graduate programs in the country.

Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting undergrad.osu.edu. Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or askabuckeye@osu.edu to have an application mailed.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Ohio State's professional counseling staff specializes in personal development and academic growth. In addition, Ohio State's career and job placement offices around campus offer help in career planning and, as students move closer to graduation, resume writing, writing application letters, and job placement. These offices can help students match interests and strengths with a promising career. Ohio State recognizes that students' needs for career support services vary and offers special services for disabled students, veterans, minority students, and international students.

Revised August 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the history of art program, please visit history-of-art.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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