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History of Art Major Program

The Major in History of Art is designed to give students a solid grounding in the artistic traditions, practices, and contexts that comprise historical and contemporary visuality. It also introduces the discipline’s history, methods, and debates. It prepares students to do independent research, to evaluate evidence, to create coherent and sustained arguments, and to develop skills in academic writing. In a series of increasingly focused courses—Lower division, Upper Division, Seminar, and Honors—the major provides a format for students to learn how to analyze and interpret visual, material, and textual evidence from specific cultural settings and historical circumstances. Major requirements are also designed to maximize exposure to different historical periods, geographical regions, and topics, while allowing flexibility for students to pursue their specific interests by selecting a Focus of Study.

41-52 units total

I. LOWER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS (4 courses)

A. Three History of Art Courses (9-12 units)

Majors must complete 9 to 12 units of Lower Division course work in the History of Art. These units may come from courses taken in the Department, courses taken at other institutions granted transfer credit for the Major by the Department, or from AP Art History (score of 4 or 5). Courses that qualify for Lower Division requirements include:
   4 unit lecture courses: HA10, 11, 34, 35, 51, 62, etc.
   3 unit lecture courses.

Additional requirement: These three courses must include one course in Western art and one course in non-Western art.

B. One Art Practice/Materials Course (2-4 units)

Students must complete 2, 3, or 4 units in a course that introduces specific art making practices and/or the study of the materials of art. This course must be approved in advance by an Undergraduate Advisor in History of Art. It may be taken P/NP. Applicable courses are typically offered in the Practice of Art Department, College of Environmental Design, and program in New Media Studies. Students may also take courses that involve the making of art taught occasionally in the Department.

II. UPPER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS (7 or 8 courses)

In their Upper Division coursework in History of Art (total 26-28 units; 8 of these units in seminars), each student must take courses in four of the following five Geographical areas and one course in each of the three Chronological periods.
Geographical:
1) Europe and the Mediterranean
2) Asia and the Pacific
3) The Americas
4) Middle East and Africa
5) Transcultural

Chronological:
1) Prehistoric - 1200
2) 1200 - 1800
3) 1800 - present

Upper Division lecture courses (3 or 4 units) and seminars (2 or 4 units) may fulfill these breadth requirements. Upper Division classes (lecture or seminar) can fulfill both a Geographical requirement and a Chronological requirement.

A. Five Lecture Courses (18-20 units)
Up to two of these courses may be 3 unit courses.

B. Seminars (8 units)
Students in the major are required to complete 8 units of seminar study, of which 4 units (incorporating a research paper component) must be in their Focus of Study. The remaining four units may be taken as follows:

A second 4-unit seminar with research paper.

Or
Two 2-unit seminars without research papers.

Individual faculty members will decide when a given seminar can be taken for 2 units. 2-unit seminars require active participation and completion of weekly readings and writing assignments. 4-unit seminars add a final research paper.

III. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (1 or 2 courses)

A. Theories/Methods Course (4 units)
All students in the major are required to take either HA100 or HA101. These courses, offered in fall and spring semesters, focus on historiography and theoretical/philosophical models in the History of Art, on practical methods of art historical inquiry, or a combination thereof. Students should take HA100 or HA101 early in their work in the major. Students intending to pursue graduate training in the History of Art or related disciplines are encouraged to take both courses.

B. Upper Division Course Outside the Department (3 or 4 units)
Required only by students who declared prior to Fall 2017.

Students must take for a grade one upper division lecture course or seminar in another department. The course should support each student’s Focus of Study in art history. It must be approved in advance by an Undergraduate Advisor in History of Art. Courses that may be
 næ approved are typically offered by Arts and Humanities and Social Science departments and the College of Environmental Design.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Focus of Study
Four Upper Division courses taught in the Department will comprise the Focus of Study. Students who declared prior to Fall 2017 are also required to include the one course taught outside the Department. Each student must select a Focus of Study by no later than the second semester of the junior year. By selecting a focus, students engage a specific field/period/topic in a cluster of relevant courses taught within and outside the Department. The focus must be approved by an Undergraduate Faculty Advisor.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- The Ancient World
- Art and Gender
- The Renaissance World
- Modernities and the Arts
- The Body in Art
- Globalism and the Arts
- Art and Religion
- Urban Culture
- Popular Culture
- Material Culture

How and When to Declare the Major and Select a Focus of Study
To declare the major in the History of Art Department, a student must complete two courses taught in the Department and receive a grade of C- or higher in each course. Once these prerequisites are met, students may formally petition to declare the major by making an appointment with an Undergraduate Advisor at any time during the fall and spring semesters. Students in residence at UC Berkeley are strongly urged to complete all lower division requirements and one upper division course by the end of their sophomore year. Transfer students should plan to take two history of art courses in their first semester. Students need to establish their area of focus by the second semester of their junior year.

Advantages of Declaring Early
Majors who declare early, especially in the sophomore year, enjoy several advantages:

1. A more thorough preparation for seminars and time to study more closely with multiple members of the faculty.
2. Greater flexibility in coordinating major requirements with College of Letters and Science (L&S) requirements and in planning a sequence of courses that allows for special programs of study, e.g., study abroad, internships, independent study, a double major, and the Honors Program.

Advising and Appointments with Major Advisors
Declared majors must see an Undergraduate Advisor, in person, each semester during the registration period (advisors are listed on the Department website and in the Department office). These advising meetings provide majors with the opportunity to work closely with a
faculty member who can help them develop an overall program of study well-suited to individual strengths and career goals. The advisors also apprise majors of special courses and opportunities, both in the History of Art Department and elsewhere. Please note that faculty advisors are typically not available during official University holidays or recesses. Advising appointments can be made by signing up online:

http://arthistory.berkeley.edu/programs/undergraduate-welcome/

In addition to general advising and coursework approval, advisors must approve all changes in registration, including withdrawals and add-drop changes, certain special study courses (History of Art 193, 194, H195, 199), and some special programs.

Appointments should be made well in advance of deadlines (e.g. course enrollment). To make the most efficient use of advising appointments for course enrollment, students should consider carefully the Department’s course descriptions, and plan a schedule of proposed courses to be discussed with the advisor. Special additional office hours are held during enrollment periods, and advisors may decline to provide last-minute advising. Advisor codes will only be given out over the phone or via email if a student is studying abroad or is unable to come to campus because of a serious emergency.

Departmental Undergraduate Advisors do not administer or approve coursework or degree requirements in the College of Letters and Science other than the requirements of the major. For L&S requirements, students should make an appointment to see an L&S advisor in 206 Evans Hall.

Transfer of Credit
Undergraduate Advisors may credit courses taken at other institutions toward completion of the History of Art major at UC Berkeley. This process is independent of the transfer of credit toward completion of L&S requirements for graduation. Transfer students should come to their first departmental advising appointment with copies of transcripts from all institutions they have attended previously as well as information (syllabi or equivalent documentation) about the content and requirements of the courses they wish to transfer. Courses taken at community colleges may only fulfill Lower Division requirements for the History of Art major. Coursework from other universities or 4-year colleges may be considered for Upper Division major requirements. Please note as well the residency requirements under “Special Restrictions for all Majors.”

Study Abroad
Art History majors are encouraged to study abroad. Doing so requires careful planning and provisional pre-approval of the course of study by undergraduate advisors. Courses taken through study abroad must be discussed in advance with an advisor and will not be formally approved until after completion and until satisfactory documentation (syllabi, term papers, exams, etc.) has been submitted. In order for courses taken abroad to satisfy major requirements, the breadth and depth of the course, the work demanded, and your performance must all meet Berkeley Upper Division standards. Your performance will be evaluated by an Undergraduate Advisor upon your return to campus to determine whether major
requirements have been satisfied. For more details, please see the Department’s Study Abroad Information sheet.

**UC Berkeley Summer Session Courses and Major Requirements**
Two Summer Session lecture courses—in History of Art or for the requirement of one course taught outside the Department—and an Art Practice course may be credited to completion of the major.

**Approval of Other Courses**
On occasion, courses taught in other departments may fulfill major requirements with the approval in advance by a History of Art Faculty Advisor.

**Special Study/Departmental Honors**
Students with a GPA of 3.7 or higher in the major are encouraged to do HA195: Honors Thesis (4 units; graded). A student whose thesis receives a grade of A- or better will receive Departmental Honors (Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors). The Honors Thesis is a two-semester project done under faculty supervision: a seminar, directed research, or independent study course in the first semester followed by HA195 in the second. For more details, please see the Honors Program page on the Department’s website.

**Grades and Credits**

**Letter Grade:** All courses to be counted toward completion of the Major, with the exception of the Art Practice requirement which may only be taken Pass/Not Pass, must be taken for a letter grade, earning at C- minus or higher. Majors must attain at least a C (2.000) average overall in all of the courses required in the major program.

**Declaring the History of Art Major:** Prior to declaring the major, students must complete two courses taught in the Department and receive a grade of C- or higher in each course.

**AP Credit:** Course credit may be given to students who receive a score of four or five on the Advanced Placement (AP) Examination in History of Art. This credit may be used to satisfy one lower division course requirement.

**Residency**
A minimum of five upper division courses must be taken in the History of Art Department at Berkeley, of which one must be a 4-unit seminar. L&S residency requirements include a minimum of 18 units of upper division courses (excluding study abroad units), 12 of which must satisfy the requirements for this major.

Note that undergraduate seniors (with 90 semester units earned) must complete at least 24 of the remaining 30 units in residence over at least two semesters; there is a Modified Senior Residence Requirement for participants in EAP/Non-EAP or UCB-DC programs. See L&S Residency Requirements for details.
Suggestions for All Majors

1. **Foreign languages** Students planning on graduate study in the History of Art are urged to develop a reading knowledge of a foreign language. Study of one or more languages may also be useful to various arts-related jobs.

2. **Course loads vary** but students should be aware that 15 units is considered a normal load; 13 units is the minimum for a full time student.

Appeals

If, at any time, a student has a complaint, the Department has an “Undergraduate Appeals Procedure” which should be followed. A copy of this procedure may be obtained from the Undergraduate Assistant or at Appeals to the Deans’ Conference. Its purpose is to permit students in the Department to resolve complaints at the departmental level, prior to filing complaints pursuant to the Berkeley Campus Student Grievance Procedure.

Special Awards

The **Maybelle M. Toombs Awards** recognize the potential and achievement of students based upon their record in the major up to the beginning of the senior year. By that time, a student must have completed at least two semesters of coursework as a History of Art major at Berkeley. Criteria include grade point average in the major; grasp of the research techniques and methods of the discipline; and a curriculum notable for its breadth and depth.

The **Departmental Citation** is presented at Commencement to a graduating senior of singular achievement. The Awards Committee uses grades as its principal criterion, but also takes into account the character of the student’s overall program; its ambition and depth; the student’s ability to sustain a high level of excellence throughout his or her undergraduate work in Art History as well as in other subjects; and the ways in which this broad experience is brought to bear in an Honors Thesis of high quality, one that notably demonstrates the ability to do research in the discipline, a genuine independence of mind, and a maturity of judgment.

History of Art Undergraduate Association

The History of Art Undergraduate Student Association (H.Art) is an official campus group that exists to serve the interests of the Department’s majors. In the past, the association has compiled an internship directory, hosted a student-faculty brunch, sponsored special luncheon talks with faculty and graduate students, and assisted in organizing career seminars. All majors are invited and encouraged to participate in this student-run association. For information, see the Association’s page on the Department’s website: [http://arthistoryucb.blogspot.com/](http://arthistoryucb.blogspot.com/)

Announcements

It is very important that majors keep on file in the Department their “berkeley.edu” email addresses, and that they check that account frequently for announcements and opportunities of particular interest to students concerning internships, work experience, study abroad, special lectures, and symposia.
Graduation

Graduation requires:
1) A degree check in L&S: A degree check from the Office of Undergraduate Advising should be done the semester before you graduate to make sure you have completed L&S requirements.
2) Departmental Advisor’s approval: In order for students to be cleared by the Department for completion of the major, all categories on the major record form must bear an advisor’s initials as approval for coursework taken.
3) Confirmation through your CalCentral dashboard that you have completed requirements for Subject A, American History & Institutions, and American Cultures.
4) The student’s name on the Degree List: Undergraduates registered at UC Berkeley with 8 or more terms completed (4 or more terms for junior transfer students) on their record, are automatically opted in to the degree list. If you are not opted into the degree list for any reason during the semester you plan to graduate, you must print a Degree List Add fillable form and follow the instructions.

The History of Art Minor Program (18-20 units)

The Minor Program in the History of Art is designed to provide a structured and broad program for those students majoring in other disciplines but with a strong interest in the History of Art. Students minoring in the History of Art will take at least 5 courses (Upper Division Lecture or Seminar) with a minimum grade of C. Up to two of these courses may be 3 unit courses. These should include courses in two separate chronological periods and two different geographical categories as specified below. Students should be aware of College requirements regarding overlap between Major and Minor programs.

Geographical:                                 Chronological:
1) Europe and the Mediterranean             1) Prehistoric-1200
2) Asia and the Pacific                    2) 1200-1800
3) The Americas                            3) 1800-present
4) Middle East and Africa
5) Transcultural

Three of these courses must be taken in the History of Art Department at Berkeley. Students minoring in History of Art are strongly encouraged to also take a lower division lecture course in art history and a course in art practice/materials. Students may apply one Summer Session course to their minor requirements.

Work for the minor must be completed within the 130-unit minimum limit for graduation. Courses accepted for a Minor Program may also satisfy L&S breadth requirements. A maximum of one course may be used to satisfy requirements of both a student’s major and minor.
**Resources**

UC Berkeley Library: [http://www.lib.berkeley.edu](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu)

Art/Classics Library: [http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ARTH/](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ARTH/)

Writing Center: [http://slc.berkeley.edu/writing](http://slc.berkeley.edu/writing)


Disabled Students Program: [http://dsp.berkeley.edu](http://dsp.berkeley.edu)

Grievance Policy: [http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/grievance.stm](http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/grievance.stm)