

ART HISTORY, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Art History minor is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the history of art that will complement major studies in the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences. The histories of diverse forms of visual culture-including painting, sculpture, architecture, design, the graphic arts, and the decorative arts-are introduced in relation to their social and cultural contexts. The minor in Art History provides students with a liberal arts curriculum with a particular sensitivity to the social, rhetorical, and aesthetic roles the visual arts play in diverse cultures and is especially relevant for students pursuing art, art education, history, anthropology, archaeology, classics, English, foreign language/literature, cultural studies, international business, and arts administration. The skills and knowledge acquired through the Art History minor enhance students' appreciation of the value of cultural heritage, their communication skills, and their understanding of world history. Students majoring in Art History cannot take this minor.

What is Art History?

Art history is the exploration of art and architecture from ancient to contemporary times, in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. It's museum studies, historiography, iconology, art criticism, connoisseurship, and research. It's studying aesthetics, and the context, form, and social significance of art throughout time and place. Art history relates visual images back to questions of religion, politics, society, gender, economics, philosophy, and culture.

You Might Like This pROGRAM If...

- You are fascinated by art, architecture, and visual materials from prehistoric times to the present.
- Visual images make your mind light up with a hundred questions that all relate to "Who? Where? When? How?"

If you can't wait to get to the business of answering these questions, then art history might be the minor for you!

Entrance to the Minor

For specific information on entrance procedures, please visit the website for the College of Arts and Architecture (https://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/howtoapply/art_history/).

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	21

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>).

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits from the following: ¹		9
ARTH 100	Introduction to Art	
ARTH 105N	Pictures and Power	
ARTH/GEOSC 107N	Rocks, Minerals, and the History of Art	
ARTH 111	Ancient to Medieval Art	
ARTH 111U	Ancient to Medieval Art	
ARTH 112	Renaissance to Modern Art	
ARTH 112U	Renaissance to Modern Art	
ARTH 120	Asian Art and Architecture	
ARTH 120Z	Asian Art and Architecture -LINKED	
ARTH 130	Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas	
ARTH 140	Introduction to the Art and Architecture of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits of 1 to 400-level ARTH courses, except ARTH 100		6
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Note: Students are encouraged to use these supporting courses to focus their studies in one or two areas of art history and should discuss these course selections with an Art History faculty member.

¹ These 9 credits must include one course in Western art and one course in non-Western art. ARTH 100 and ARTH 107N do not count for either the Western or non-Western requirement.

Learning Outcomes

Art History teaches deep looking and analysis. It therefore develops the sort of visual literacy essential in today's world. The major also sharpens writing and verbal communication skills, and improves critical thinking.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

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Career Paths

Art history provides students with a solid background in the liberal arts, as well as a strong foundation in the history of painting, sculpture, architecture, design, and the graphic arts. It opens the door for numerous careers, and is an excellent first step toward pursuing advanced degrees in art history.

Careers

Art history students have found employment in museums, galleries, publishing, arts agencies, visual resources, archives and libraries, archaeology, historic preservation, and historic sites.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

The two most common careers for art historians are teaching at the college level, or working in a museum as a curator, registrar, or director (among other possibilities). These careers typically require a graduate degree.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES
(<https://arthistory.psu.edu/graduate/>)

Contact

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