



UNC  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ART

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrative Board of College of Arts and Sciences  
FROM: Mary D. Sheriff, W.R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Art History and  
Acting Chair, Department of Art

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES IN ART HISTORY MAJOR: Curriculum Proposal

Curricular reason for proposed changes:

Our current curriculum for the Art History major requires four 100-level surveys and only one upper division advanced art history class. We have found that the surveys tend to duplicate one another in terms of developing basic skills of art historical analysis and basic methods of art history. Often we have senior majors whose art historical practice is well developed having to take 100-level surveys to complete the current major curriculum. In contrast, the current curriculum requires only one advanced art history course. We believe that one class at this level is not sufficient for developing an in-depth knowledge of any area of the discipline and in learning advanced techniques of research, interpretation, and writing in art history. We believe that decreasing the number of 100-level surveys and increasing the number of advanced classes will improve the major, provide greater challenge for our students, and prepare them better for the challenges of graduate school or employment in the field of art history.

## Department of Art

### Art History Major, B.A.

#### Core Requirements

- ~~Three~~ Two art history foundation courses from ARTH 100 to 199 ~~and one~~  
~~—ne studio art course~~
- ~~Two~~ Three intermediate art history courses from ARTH 200 to 399
- ~~One~~ Three advanced art history course from ARTH 400 to 699
- ~~Four~~ Two elective art history courses from ARTH 200 to 699; a first-year seminar taught by an art history faculty member (ARTH 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, 64, 66, 77, 79, 84, 89 [with approval based on topic]) may be substituted for one art history elective numbered 200 or above.
- One undergraduate research seminar, ARTH 391 (offered with three chronological topic areas). It is strongly recommended that students take this seminar no later than the spring of their junior year.

- One studio art course

- Area of concentration: Five courses of any level from the above categories must fall within one of the following five areas of concentration:

- Concentration I: 5000 BCE–400 CE: ARTH 151, 153, 158, 160, 262, 263, 266, 292, 391 (ancient and medieval topic), 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 474, 476, 683

- Concentration II: 200–1500 CE: ARTH 151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 251, 258, 264, 265, 266, 270, 272, 351, 361, 362, 363, 365, 391 (ancient and medieval topic), 454, 455, 457, 458, 466, 467, 469, 470, 471, 472, 475, 561, 562, 570

- Concentration III: 1250–1850: ARTH 54, 55, 64, 66, 77, 152, 153, 154, 157, 161, 254, 266, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 277, 279, 283, 287, 288, 352, 361, 365, 368, 370, 391 (early modern topic), 451, 457, 458, 466, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 485, 561, 562, 570, 597

- Concentration IV: 1750–1950: ARTH 54, 61, 64, 66, 77, 84, 152, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 254, 266, 267, 275, 282, 283, 284, 287, 288, 289, 352, 353, 370, 383, 387, 391 (modern and contemporary topic), 452, 453, 456, 457, 473, 481, 483, 514, 551, 556, 583, 592

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◦ Concentration V: 1900–Present: ARTH 53, 54, 61, 152, 153, 155, 157, 159, 255, 259, 267, 283, 284, 285, 287, 289, 352, 353, 383, 385, 386, 387, 391 (modern and contemporary topic), 445, 452, 453, 456, 457, 468, 473, 485, 488, 514, 551, 553, 554, 556, 583, 586, 588

The undergraduate program in art history is directed toward two main educational goals: 1) to provide students with an excellent liberal arts foundation through an understanding of the historical and global significance, cultural diversity, and intellectual richness of human artistic traditions from prehistoric times to the present; and 2) to provide these students with the intellectual tools needed to investigate the complex roles played by the arts in a variety of social contexts. Skills in visual analysis, historical research, critical reading, analytical and descriptive writing, and oral communication are developed throughout the course of the study. The practice of art history is interdisciplinary, dynamically engaged with many fields in the humanities and social sciences, as well as with the University's diverse area studies programs and the Ackland Art Museum. The art history major equips students with skills, knowledge, and values to negotiate rapidly changing, richly diverse, and increasingly interconnected local, national, and worldwide communities.

A maximum of two cross-listed courses taught by faculty members outside the Department of Art may count toward the major. It is strongly recommended that before taking a course numbered above 399, students take a lower-level course devoted to the same period. Advanced courses numbered 400 to 699 are lecture and discussion classes open to both graduate and undergraduate students.

All General Education Foundations, Approaches, Connections, and Supplemental General Education requirements must be satisfied.