



October 15, 2014

Associate Dean James Thompson
Office of Undergraduate Curricula
Campus

Dear James:

The Art History faculty in the Department of Art voted to change the requirements for the B.A. in Art History as follows (changes in caps; I include only the points in the Undergraduate Bulletin that are changing):

~~Four~~ THREE art history foundation courses from ARTH 100 to 199 and one studio art course

~~Three~~ FOUR 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) may be substituted for one art history elective numbered 200 or above. The other requirements, and the total number of courses required for the major, will not change.

Rationale: The Art History faculty feels that the burden imposed by requiring four introductory survey courses is disproportionate to the intellectual and pedagogical rewards the requirement offers. The Undergraduate Committee discussed the matter carefully and considered especially the fact that this requirement constitutes a disincentive for transfer students and late deciders to choose or to add the major in art history in their junior year. The faculty as a whole believes that three introductory courses provide sufficient breadth, the original goal of the requirement. It is our judgment that majors would be better served by taking an additional course numbered 200 or above to complement the new undergraduate research seminar, ARTH 391, required of majors.

In addition, the Studio Art faculty in the Department of Art has voted to make several curriculum updates to the BA, BFA, and BFA with an Art History Emphasis. To begin with alongside ARTH 255, 387, 468, 488 and 586, ARTH 159, 283, 285, 302, 385, 387, 385, 488, 553, 554 and 555 as courses that meet the ART History with a contemporary focus requirement for the ARTS-BFA degree.

Removed from Tier I for each degree is ARTS 223 which we recommend be deactivated. In Tier II, should the courses be approved, added for each degree would be ARTS 253 and ARTS 355. The faculty also wishes to move ARTS 305, 348 and 356 currently in Tier III down to Tier II for all degrees. In Tier III for all degrees we wish to add ARTS 368 and to deactivate, and thus remove, ARTS 307, 338, 405, 407 and 423.

We also wish to make a change to the existing honors program and have sent the appropriate CRAS forms. Should the change be approved the course would change from independent research directed by a faculty member leading to an honors thesis, to a sequence of regularly-scheduled courses taught by unit-designated faculty. The edited bulleting submitted by Professor Grabowski reflect this change.

I present these changes for the consideration of the Curriculum Committee and the Administrative Boards with my full support and in the hope that they can become effective in Fall 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hirschfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Hirschfield
Chair, Department of Art