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 art, architecture and the decorative arts, video, cinema, and film.

Courses at the 2000- and 3000-levels introduce students to the major monuments of world art and the fundamental principles of art historical investigation and interpretation. In more advanced courses (4000-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 than 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; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in history of art within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The history of art major requires 39 credit hours. The core curriculum is composed of six courses (18 credit hours):
- two introductory courses in Western Art (HA2001 and 2002)
- one introductory course in either Asian or African Art (HA2003 or 2101)
- a writing seminar (HA4001)
- a course in artistic materials and technique (HA4005) or a 2000-level foundational course in studio art in the Department of Art
- a course in methods and theories of art history (HA4010)

In addition, students must take seven courses (21 credit hours) at the 4000-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.

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 five courses (15 credit hours) from the department’s offerings. At least two of these courses must be at the 4000-level or above.

Educational Objectives
The History of Art program will achieve the following learning outcomes:
- Introduce GE students, potential majors and newly declared majors to the basic ideas and major monuments of world art.
- Help students develop a basic understanding of art historical methodology and historiography.
- Help students develop a full understanding of the major artistic movements, artists and works of art within the specific historical eras and/or geographical regions.
- Develop within advanced students an understanding of the theoretical and philosophical foundations of the discipline.

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 abroad programs and student organizations.

In addition to participating in the more than 100 study abroad programs offered by Ohio State, students are eligible for 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 History of Art Undergraduate Society, as well as GILD, the Group for the Intellectual Life of the Department.

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.

For more information, check these websites:
Department of History of Art: history-of-art.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
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.

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.

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 specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in History of Art. Visit history-of-art.osu.edu for details.

Freshman Year:
Freshman Seminar 1
History of Western Art 3
History of Asian Art 3
Elective courses 6
GE courses 17
Total hours 30

Sophomore Year:
History of Western Art 3
Writing Seminar in History of Art 3
Advanced History of Art 3
Elective courses 0–6
GE courses 14–20
Total hours 23–35

Junior Year:
Advanced History of Art 6
Methods and Theories of Art History 3
Artistic Media and Techniques 3
Elective courses 6
GE courses 12
Total hours 30

Senior Year:
Advanced History of Art 15
Elective courses 12
GE courses 3
Total hours 30

Revised January 2014. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the history of art program, visit history-of-art.osu.edu.

Contact Information:

Department of History of Art | College of Arts and Sciences
217 Pomerene Hall | 1760 Neil Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1318 | 614-292-7481