

Art History

Art History (ARTH)

College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Art History
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The arts and architecture shape the way that we see and understand the world. Looking at art means more than looking at pretty pictures; it means that one is looking at a person's and a culture's vision of the spiritual, of the everyday world, and of the society that link us together. Art history truly embodies the study of the liberal arts by considering the work of art and architecture within its broader cultural context, including religion, economic production, politics, gender and social identification, literature.

The Art History Department at St. Thomas seeks to explore the many dimensions of art in a broad range of periods and worldwide cultures. The courses and faculty of the department encourage students to become investigators, learning to ask and answer questions about art, from pottery to painting, from bronzes to buildings. Students are encouraged to conduct independent research and to present their findings to a broader audience and to make art accessible inside and outside of the classroom.

With its interdisciplinary approach, an undergraduate art history major is an important part of liberal arts studies. It includes a wide-ranging knowledge of mythological and religious beliefs and draws parallels to historical, literary, theological, and technological developments of a period. It also develops analytical thinking and writing skills through research papers and projects.

Students graduating with a major in art history have a general knowledge of the history of art, including western and non-western cultures, and how to analyze the style, meaning, and context of a work of art or architecture. They are able to define and carry out a major research project and to present an art historical topic in an oral format. The liberal arts and interdisciplinary nature of the major can be combined with other majors such as theology, history, philosophy, or English, or with other programs emphasizing professional skills, including journalism, and communication.

With careful planning of one's program of studies along with an internship in one of the metropolitan area museums, galleries, or corporate collections, this major can lead to entry level employment related to the visual arts. It can also prepare students for graduate study of art history, which in turn can lead to academic or professional museum positions.

The department offers a number of courses for the non-major to fulfill the Fine Arts component of the core curriculum.

Major in Art History

ARTH 110 Introduction to Art History (4 credits)

ARTH 211 Methods, Approaches, and Problems in Art History (4 credits)

ARTH 481 Senior Paper and Presentation (4 credits)

Plus eight credits chosen from two of the following three areas:

Ancient Art

ARTH 260 Women in Ancient Art and Culture (4 credits)

ARTH 305 Greek Art and Archaeology (4 credits)

ARTH 310 Roman Art and Archaeology (4 credits)

or equivalent

Medieval Art

ARTH 330 Churches and Mosques in the First Millennium (4 credits)

ARTH 335 Cathedrals, Monasteries, and Caliphates (4 credits)

or equivalent

Renaissance & Baroque Art

ARTH 340 Southern Renaissance Art and Society (4 credits)

ARTH 345 Baroque and Rococo Art (4 credits)

or equivalent

Plus eight credits of Global Art chosen from the following courses:

ARTH 284 Arts of the African Diaspora (4 credits)

ARTH 285 Arts of Africa (4 credits)

ARTH 286 Women's Art in Cross-cultural Perspective (4 credits)

ARTH 289 Asian Art (4 credits)

ARTH 291 Topics in Non-Western Art (4 credits)

ARTH 321 The Art and Culture of Modern Mexico (1824-1940)

or equivalent

Plus four credits of Modern Art, chosen from the following courses:

ARTH 321 The Art and Culture of Modern Mexico (1824-1940)

ARTH 351 Romanticism to Impressionism (4 credits)

ARTH 352 Art in the United States (4 credits)

ARTH 356 Modernism in European Art (4 credits)
 ARTH 361 Contemporary Art (4 credits)
 ARTH 450 Modern Scandinavian Art History (4 credits)
 or equivalent

Plus four credits of Media Studies (architecture and media other than painting and sculpture), chosen from the following courses:

ARTH 280 Sacred Architecture and Space (4 credits)
 ARTH 282 The History of American Architecture (4 credits)
 ARTH 285 Arts of Africa (4 credits)
 ARTH 286 Women's Art in Cross-cultural Perspective (4 credits)
 or equivalent

Note: A single course may fall into more than one area, but may only be applied to a single area. Students taking courses abroad may also substitute one course taken abroad for one of the advanced studies course areas (with the exception of global art) with prior approval of the chair of the department.

Plus four credits meeting one of the following criteria:

- a second course in one of the above six areas
- an internship or other form of experiential learning, including research and preparation of exhibits
- an art history course taken abroad
- a studio art course

Allied requirements

Four credits, chosen from the following three options:

A fourth course in one foreign language
 COJO 256 Design Concepts of Communication (4 credits)
 COJO 260 Electronic Media Production (4 credits)
 Language course 212 or higher

Minor in Art History

ARTH 110 Introduction to Art History (4 credits)

Plus:

Sixteen credits chosen with the approval of the department chair or a department adviser.

ARTH 110 Introduction to Art History (4 credits)

Through a series of case studies, this course examines the importance of art as cultural expression across time and from a global perspective. In each course section, students will analyze the style, subject, and patronage of works of art, and will explore art's relationship to religion, ideology, society and economy, gender roles, and the interaction of cultures. Case studies will include architecture, sculpture, painting, and other arts, such as ceramics, textiles, and photography. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum. Consult the department website for details about the specific sections offered.

ARTH 211 Methods, Approaches, and Problems in Art History (4 credits)

An introduction to the methods and problems of art history, including the theoretical approaches to art and its history, the examination and analysis of the work and its medium, the role of the museum and gallery in the study of art, and bibliographic tools of the different disciplines of the field.

Prerequisite: ARTH 110 (or 151 or 152 from earlier catalogs) or permission of chair

ARTH 260 Women in Ancient Art and Culture (4 credits)

The history of the ancient world—its politics, philosophy, and literature—is mostly silent or slanderous about the lives of women. In most times and places their role in public life and their ability to express themselves were severely circumscribed. However, a study of archaeological material, representations in art and literature, and the occasional writing of women themselves allows us to look behind the curtain that veiled their lives. This class will examine the evidence to reconstruct a picture of what the life of women was like in Egyptian, Greek, and Roman culture throughout the ancient Mediterranean.

ARTH 280 Sacred Architecture and Space (4 credits)

Throughout history, humans have set aside spaces for religious purposes. Frequently these are the most visible remains or representatives of a culture and are keys to understanding the place of humans within the world and universe. This course examines sacred architecture and spaces from a variety of perspectives, including materials and structure, ritual function and liturgy, decoration, symbolism, physical context, and social/religious context. The course will examine not only Christian churches, but will also examine non-Christian and non-western traditions of religion and architecture. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 282 The History of American Architecture (4 credits)

A survey of high style and vernacular architecture in the United States from the Native Americans to the present day. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to: identify the major themes and styles in American archi-



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ecture; recognize major monuments and their designers; and understand how an American identity was projected in architecture. This includes understanding American architecture and its relationship to corresponding developments in art, landscape, and the urban fabric. Emphasis will be placed on structures in Minnesota and the upper Midwest. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 284 Arts of the African Diaspora (4 credits)

This course surveys the diverse arts produced by people of African descent in the Diaspora (Suriname, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, the United States and England) from the Colonial period to the present. An examination of selected West and Central African cultural practices and art forms will serve as a basis for an understanding of creative transformations in the African Diaspora. Important issues to be addressed include art and resistance, survivals and transformations, and the construction of race and diasporic identity. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum.

ARTH 285 Arts of Africa (4 credits)

The continent of Africa presents a world of contrasts: from the powerful trading empires of the Sahel to the small scale, nomadic societies of the Kalahari. This course will survey the arts and cultures of sub-Saharan Africa, drawing on recent breakthroughs in archaeology, anthropology and art history to explore the diversity and creativity of past and present African artists. This course will explore material culture in its original context and seek to understand the social roles that art plays in all aspects of life, from religion and politics to personal relationships. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum.

ARTH 286 Women's Art in Cross-cultural Perspective (4 credits)

What is "women's art"? Is the definition of women's art consistent across cultures? What are the conditions of women's artistic practice, and how do women address vital social, spiritual, and political issues through their art? These are the questions to be addressed in this course, an interdisciplinary study of women's art that focuses on case studies in Africa, the Americas, the Pacific, and Asia. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum.

ARTH 289 Asian Art (4 credits)

This course is a survey of South and East Asian art, from its beginnings in the Bronze Age until the present. The course will emphasize regional characteristics as well as cross-cultural influences of Asian art in a variety of media, including architecture, painting, calligraphy, sculpture, and pottery. The course will also examine the impact of social class on artists and patronage and upon the influence of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shintoism play in the form and function of Asian art. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum.

ARTH 291 Topics in Non-Western Art (4 credits)

This course number covers a range of offerings in the art and architecture of Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America. Offerings will vary from year to year, but will usually provide a comprehensive survey of the arts of a wide region such as Asia or Africa or of a major religion such as Buddhism or Islam. A more detailed examination of a single country such as China or Mexico may also be included among offerings. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum.

ARTH 295, 296 Topics (2 credits)

ARTH 297, 298 Topics (4 credits)

The subject matter of these courses will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. Descriptions of these courses are available in the Searchable Class Schedule on Murphy Online,

<https://banner.stthomas.edu/pls/banner/prod/bwckschd>.

Topics listed under 297 fulfill the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 305 Greek Art and Archaeology (4 credits)

A survey of the art and architecture of ancient Greece from the fall of the Bronze Age civilizations to the end of the Hellenistic period. Particular attention will be given to sculpture, vase painting, and the relationship of art to the broader culture, to the art of the ancient Near East and Egypt, and to gender relations in ancient Greece. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 310 Roman Art and Archaeology (4 credits)

A survey of the art of the Roman Republic and Empire to the emperor Constantine in the early fourth century C.E. Issues include the use of art and architecture as an expression of imperial political programs, the creation of urban architecture and the everyday environment of the Romans, and Rome's relationship to Greece and the Near East. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 321 The Art and Culture of Modern Mexico (1824-1940) (4 credits)

This course examines the art and culture of Mexico from Independence through the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary periods (c. 1824-1940). Painting, sculpture, architecture and popular arts are investigated in the context of broader political and intellectual movements during this period of tremendous societal change. The class begins with an overview of art history from the pre-Hispanic and Colonial periods. The core course content focuses on academic and popular arts following Mexico's independence; in this context we discuss the intense search for

national identity, or mexicanidad, that marks the modern era. This class also explores the impact of the Mexican Revolution on the work of Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, José Clemente Orozco, Frida Kahlo and other artists of the period. Through critical readings of the biographies and autobiographies of Kahlo and Rivera alongside scholarly and popular texts, the course raises questions about the role of artist biography in our understanding of art works. In this course, Mexico is not seen in isolation; readings and discussions also investigate the work of Mexican-born artists in the United States and Europe as well as the ways in which outsiders conceived of and represented Mexico during the Revolutionary Period. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum.

ARTH 330 Churches and Mosques in the First Millennium (4 credits)

This course examines the formation and development of the first Christian and Islamic art and architecture during the first millennium C.E. of Europe and the Mediterranean. The class will examine the development of religious structures for these new religions, the role of visual images in both religious and secular contexts, and the influences that these cultures exerted on each other. Areas to be covered include: the Early Christian period; the Germanic, Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian cultures of the sixth to eighth centuries; the Carolingian and Ottonian periods; Byzantine art and architecture; Islamic art and architecture. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 335 Cathedrals, Monasteries, and Caliphates (4 credits)

A survey of the arts in Europe during the Romanesque and Gothic periods, c. 1000-1400. Emphasis will also be given to contemporaneous currents in Byzantine and Islamic art and their influence on the art of the West. This course fulfills the Fine Arts core requirement.

ARTH 340 Southern Renaissance Art and Society (4 credits)

A survey of the art and architecture of Italy, Spain and Portugal from the fourteenth through the sixteenth centuries. The course will focus on issues of style, patronage and iconography. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 345 Baroque and Rococo Art (4 credits)

A survey of the art and architecture of western Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Emphasis will be given to issues of iconography, patronage, and style. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 351 Romanticism to Impressionism (4 credits)

This course will investigate the history of European painting and sculpture from 1800 to 1880. It will consider the major trends of Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, and Impressionism. It will also address art's response to and role in a European society marked by colonialism, industrialization, and the rise of urban mass culture. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 352 Art in the United States (4 credits)

This course will investigate the history of the visual arts (primarily painting and sculpture) in the United States from 1776 to 1960. Artists to be considered include colonial portraitists; Romantic landscape painters; Neoclassical sculptors; Realist, Luminist, and Impressionist painters; artists associated with New York Dada and the Harlem Renaissance; Precisionists, Regionalists and Social Realists; and Abstract Expressionists. Participants will consider artists' responses to key historical developments such as the founding of the nation, westward expansion, the Civil War, industrialization, and emergence as a superpower. Several issues will run throughout the course: What is the relationship between the art of Euro-Americans and that of Europe? and that of Native Americans? Is there something "American" about American art? How do the visual arts reinforce or challenge our sense of American history and identity? This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 356 Modernism in European Art (4 credits)

Modernist artists strove to find a visual language of expression appropriate to their time; yet many contemporaries found their works incomprehensible, as do many people today. An open-minded and historically informed investigation of modern art helps to make sense of it. This course will explore the history of European painting and sculpture from 1880 to 1940. It will consider the many movements that characterized modernism, such as Post-Impressionism, Symbolism, Fauvism, Cubism, Futurism, Expressionism, Dada, Surrealism, and Constructivism. Issues to be addressed include the rejection of tradition, the development of abstraction, the impact of World War I and its aftermath, the influence of science and technology on art, and the fate of modernism under Hitler's and Stalin's regimes. Particular attention will be paid to the theoretical underpinnings of modern art. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

ARTH 361 Contemporary Art (4 credits)

This course will investigate the history of the visual arts since 1960, from Pop Art and Minimalism through recent trends. Art from around the globe will be considered, but primary emphasis will be placed on art in the United States. In addition to surveying the most significant artists, works, and trends, participants will consider issues such as: the commodification of art; the dematerialization of the art object; art's role in sociopolitical discourse; definitions of postmodernism; the legitimating institutions that comprise the "artworld;" and the relationship of aesthetic or critical theory to artistic creation. This course fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in the core curriculum.

Art History – Biochemistry

ARTH 450 Modern Scandinavian Art History (4 credits)

The golden age of Scandinavian art history witnessed the establishment of national art academies and museums in the nineteenth century and the amassing of avant garde collections of European masters and non-Western art in the twentieth, along with the emergence of prize-winning Nordic designers in industrial settings. Although on the periphery of Europe, Scandinavian masters' art reflected contemporary styles but also displayed the austerity and fantasy of traditional folk designs which evolved out of the poverty and isolation of its largely rural population in the centuries before the modern era. The art of the five Nordic countries provides a model for examining the integration of ethnic folk art motifs with mainstream European styles as well as the acceptance of both fine and applied arts as equal in importance. In addition, indigenous art of the Sami and the Greenlandic Inuit enriched folk and international design motifs. The art of those artists who participated in the great emigration of Scandinavian peoples to North America in the late nineteenth into twentieth centuries will also be examined in relation to the influences of mother country and the American artistic mainstream.

Prerequisite: one ARTH course or permission of instructor

ARTH 475, 476 Experiential Learning (2 credits)

ARTH 477, 478 Experiential Learning (4 credits)

These courses allow students to gain credit for certain non-classroom experiences. (These do not include studio art courses.) Normally open to junior and senior students. Permission of the department chair is required. Credit for experience is normally sought prior to its occurrence. See the complete description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

Prerequisite: previous course or courses in art history

ARTH 481 Senior Paper and Presentation (4 credits)

During the senior year, art history majors are expected to write a major research paper with an abstract and to describe the results of their research in an oral presentation to a departmental symposium to be held prior to graduation. The purpose of this paper and presentation is to allow the student to demonstrate competency in art historical methodology and to gain experience from presenting the results to a group of peers and faculty. The topic and instructor must be chosen in consultation with the department chair during the semester prior to writing the senior paper.

Prerequisite: ARTH 110 (or 151 and 152 from previous catalog) and 211

ARTH 483, 484 Seminar (2 credits)

ARTH 485, 486 Seminar (4 credits)

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

ARTH 487, 488 Topics (2 credits)

ARTH 489, 490 Topics (4 credits)

The subject matter of these courses will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. Descriptions of these courses are available in the Searchable Class Schedule on Murphy Online,

<https://banner.stthomas.edu/pls/banner/prod/bwckschd>.

ARTH 491, 492 Research (2 credits)

ARTH 493, 494 Research (4 credits)

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

ARTH 495, 496 Individual Study (2 credits)

ARTH 497, 498 Individual Study (4 credits)

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor or supervisor and previous work in art history

Biochemistry

College of Arts and Sciences, Interdisciplinary Program

O'Shaughnessy Science Hall (OSS) 201, (651) 962-5599

Marsh (CHEM) committee chair; Advisory committee: Brom (CHEM), Ditty (BIOL), Emms (BIOL), Kay (BIOL), Ippoliti (CHEM)

Biochemistry is an interdisciplinary major that draws upon faculty and courses in the departments of Biology and Chemistry. The major is administered by a committee of representatives from both departments and is designed to meet the needs of students interested in gaining an understanding of the chemistry of life processes. Students who fulfill the requirements will receive a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in biochemistry. The program is appropriate for students pursuing graduate studies in biochemistry, medicine, or related fields. The major is also suitable for students interested in positions in biotechnology after graduation.

Entering students interested in this major should inform Academic Counseling. Students are advised to begin their introductory biology, chemistry, and mathematics coursework in their freshman year. The Biochemistry Committee will coordinate advising. Students should talk with an adviser as soon as possible following their freshman year in order to select the elective courses that will be most appropriate to their interests. A research course in