ART HISTORY (ARTH)

ARTH 100 Freshman Seminar
The primary goal of the freshman seminar program is to provide every freshman the opportunity for a direct personal encounter with a faculty member in a small sitting devoted to a significant intellectual endeavor. Specific topics be posted at the beginning of each academic year. Please see the College Freshman seminar website for information on current course offerings https://www.college.upenn.edu/node/403.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 016, ENGL 017, URBS 106
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: For Freshmen Only

ARTH 101 Art and Civilization Before 1400
This course serves as a double introduction to the History of Art. First it is a survey of the ancient world that lays the foundation for the History of Art across the whole Eastern Hemisphere. Across this enormous timespan and geographical spread, an emphasis will be placed on moments of interaction, as well as analogies. Secondly, through this overview of the Ancient world up to around 1400, the basic skills that serve the student in the study of the History of Art will also be developed: close looking, understanding plans, the basics of iconography, questions of stylistic development, among others.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 102 Renaissance to Contemporary: Introduction to World Art, 1400 - Now
This course is an introduction to the global visual arts, roughly covering the years 1400 to the present and all media including painting, sculpture, architecture, print culture, and new media (such as photography, film, performance, and installation art). The class will cover aspects of art production across the globe and will begin to introduce students to the arts of Asia, the Americas, the Islamic world, as well as Europe, and will focus especially on the manifold interchanges between them. It offers a broad historical overview of the key techniques, movements and artists of the period, as well as an investigation into the crucial themes and contexts that mark visual art production after the middle ages.
Such themes include the new materials and techniques of art making; transcultural visual exchange; the secularization of art; the (gendered) role of the artist in society; the sites of art production and consumption such as the artist's studio, the royal courts, ecclesiastical environs and the art exhibition; the import of technology and science on art's making, content and distribution; the rise of art criticism/writing; and the socio-political contexts of patronage and audience; among others. The content of the class will vary slightly according to the expertise of the instructors.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Dombrowski, Kim, Shaw, Davis
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: VLST 232
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills Cross-Cultural Analysis Requirement; Fulfills Sector III, Arts and Letters Requirement

ARTH 103 Art and Civilization in East Asia
Introduction to major artistic traditions of China and Japan and to the methodological practices of art history. Attention given to key cultural concepts and ways of looking, such topics as: concepts of the afterlife and its representation; Buddhist arts and iconography; painting styles and subjects; and more broadly at the transmission of styles and cultural practices across East Asia. Serves as an introduction to upper level lecture courses in East Asian art history cultures. If size of class permits, certain sessions will be held in the Penn Museum or the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Davis, Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 013, VLST 233
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 104 Introduction to Art in South Asia
This course is a survey of sculpture, painting and architecture in the Indian sub-continent from 2300 B.C., touching on the present. It attempts to explore the role of tradition in the broader history of art in India, but not to see India as 'traditional' or unchanging. The Indian sub-continent is the source for multi-cultural civilizations that have lasted and evolved for several thousand years. Its art is as rich and complex as that of Europe and diverse. This course introduces the full range of artistic production in India in relation to the multiple strands that have made the cultural fabric of the sub-continent so rich and long lasting.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SAST 200, SAST 500, VLST 234
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 106 Architect and History
The built environment shapes our lives and this course tackles its underpinning design principles and qualities as well as social and cultural contexts. It is an interpretative look at the built environment or, more precisely, at the ways in which monuments and cities are designed, represented, perceived and construed over time. It introduces students to the interrelated fields of architecture, art history, and urbanism and explores great architectural monuments and cities from the modern to the ancient period, from the US across Europe and from the Mediterranean to Asia. We will assess the built environment as culturally meaningful form and examine a body of historical and cultural material relevant to its interpretation. In doing so, the course seeks to foster a critical understanding of the cultural and artistic processes that have influenced architectural and urban design. The focus will be on understanding these works as results of skilled workmanship as well as social and cultural products. We will tackle ancient and modern perceptions of these monuments and cities by analyzing form, design, structure and by addressing their perceptual qualities through 3D reconstructions and virtual environments, as well as sketchbook assignments. This course fulfills Sector IV, Humanities and Social Sciences. It cannot be taken pass/fail and must be taken for a regular grade. All assignments (6 sketchbook assignments and 2 papers) have to be completed and both exams attended, in order to pass the course.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Zarmakoupi
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 212 Cities and Temples in Ancient India
The wooden architecture of ancient India’s cities is represented in relief carvings from Buddhist religious monuments of the early centuries A.D. and replicated in remarkable excavated cave cathedrals. This course will trace that architectural tradition, its transformation into a symbolic vocabulary for a new structure, the Hindu temple, and the development of the temple in India from ca. 500-1500 A.D.
Taught by: Meister
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 612, SAST 201, SAST 501
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 213 Arts of Japan
This course introduces the major artistic traditions of Japan, from the Neolithic period to the present, and teaches the fundamental methods of the discipline of art history. Special attention will be given to the places of Shinto, the impact of Buddhism, and their related architectures and sculptures; the principles of narrative illustration; the changing roles of aristocratic, monastic, shogunal and merchant patronage; the formation of the concept of the artist over time; and the transformation of tradition in the modern age.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 613, EALC 157, EALC 557
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 214 Arts of China
The goals of this course are to introduce the major artistic traditions of China, from the Neolithic period to the present and to teach the fundamental methods of the discipline of art history. Our approaches will be chronological, considering how the arts developed in and through history, and thematic, discussing how art and architecture were used for philosophical, religious and material ends. Topics of study will include; Shang bronzes: Han concepts of the afterlife; the impact of Buddhism; patronage and painting; the landscape tradition; the concept of the literatus: architecture and garden design; the "modern" and 20th-century artistic practices; among others.
Taught by: Steinhardt, Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 614, EALC 127, EALC 527
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 217 Chinese Painting
Study of Chinese painting and practice from the earliest pictorial representation through the late twentieth century. Painting style forms the basis of analysis, and themes such as landscape and narrative are considered with regard to larger social and cultural issues. The class pays particular attention to the construction of the concepts of the "artist" and "art criticism" and their impact on the field into the present. Visits to look at paintings at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, PMA and/or local collections.
Taught by: Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 617, EALC 227, EALC 627
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Also fulfills General Requirement in History Tradition for Class of 2009 and prior

ARTH 218 Art of Ancient Iran
This course offers a survey of ancient Iranian art and culture from the painted pottery cultures of the Neolithic era to the monuments of the Persian Empire. Particular emphasis is placed on the Early Bronze Age. Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 622, ARTH 622
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 220 Art of Mesopotamia
A survey of the art of Mesopotamia from 4000 B.C. through the conquest of Alexander the Great.
Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 624, ARTH 624
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 222 Hellenistic and Roman Art and Artifacts
This course surveys the political, religious and domestic arts, patronage and display in Rome's Mediterranean, from the 2nd c. BCE to Constantine's 4th-c. Christianized empire. Our subjects are images and objects in their cultural, political and socio-economic contexts (painting, mosaic, sculpture, luxury and mass-produced arts in many media). We start with the Hellenistic cosmopolitan culture of the Greek kingdoms and their neighbors, and late Etruscan and Republican Italy; next we map Imperial Roman art as developed around the capital city Rome, as well as in the provinces of the vast empire.
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 625, ARTH 625, CLST 220
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 223 Greek Art and Artifact
This course surveys Greek art and artifacts from Sicily to the Black Sea from the 10th century BCE to the 2nd century BCE, including the age of Alexander and the Hellenistic Kingdoms. Public sculpture and painting on and around grand buildings and gardens, domestic luxury arts of jewelry, cups and vases, mosaic floors, and cult artefacts are discussed. Also considered are the ways in which heroic epic, religious and political themes are used to engaged viewers’ emotions and served both domestic and the public aims. We discuss the relationships of images and things to space and structure, along with ideas of invention and progress, and the role of monuments, makers and patrons in Greek society.
Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 625, ARTH 625, CLST 220
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 225 Greek Art and Artifact
This course surveys Greek art and artifacts from Sicily to the Black Sea from the 10th century BCE to the 2nd century BCE, including the age of Alexander and the Hellenistic Kingdoms. Public sculpture and painting on and around grand buildings and gardens, domestic luxury arts of jewelry, cups and vases, mosaic floors, and cult artefacts are discussed. Also considered are the ways in which heroic epic, religious and political themes are used to engaged viewers’ emotions and served both domestic and the public aims. We discuss the relationships of images and things to space and structure, along with ideas of invention and progress, and the role of monuments, makers and patrons in Greek society.
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 625, ARTH 625, CLST 220
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 226 Hellenistic and Roman Art and Artifacts
This course surveys the political, religious and domestic arts, patronage and display in Rome's Mediterranean, from the 2nd c. BCE to Constantine's 4th-c. Christianized empire. Our subjects are images and objects in their cultural, political and socio-economic contexts (painting, mosaic, sculpture, luxury and mass-produced arts in many media). We start with the Hellenistic cosmopolitan culture of the Greek kingdoms and their neighbors, and late Etruscan and Republican Italy; next we map Imperial Roman art as developed around the capital city Rome, as well as in the provinces of the vast empire.
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 626, ARTH 626, CLST 221
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 232 Byzantine Art and Architecture
This course offers a wide-ranging introduction to the art, architecture, and material culture of Byzantium—a Christian, predominantly Greek-speaking civilization that flourished in the Eastern Mediterranean for over a thousand years. Positioned between the Muslim East and the Latin West, Antiquity and the Early Modern era, Byzantium nurtured a vibrant and highly sophisticated artistic culture. With emphasis placed upon paradigmatic objects and monuments, we will examine an array of artistic media, from mosaic and panel painting to metalwork, ivory carving, book illumination, and embroidery. We will consider the making, consumption, and reception of Byzantine art in a variety of contexts: political, devotional, ritual, and domestic. Topics include the idea of empire and its visual articulation; court culture; the veneration of images and relics; patronage, piety, and self-representation; authorship and artistic agency; materiality and the sensory experience of art; the reception of the pagan Greco-Roman past; and the changing nature of Byzantium’s interactions with neighboring cultures.
Taught by: Drpic
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AAMW 632, ARTH 632
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 233 Eastern Medieval Architecture
This lecture course examines major architectural developments in the eastern Mediterranean between the 4th and 14th centuries CE. The focus is on the Byzantine Empire, with its capital at Constantinople. Lectures also devoted to related developments in the Caucasus (Armenia and Georgia), early Russia, the Balkans (Bulgaria and Serbia), Sicily and under the Normans, the Crusader states. Parallel developments in early Islamic architecture are used for comparative purposes. The course examines evidence for religious and secular buildings, as well as urbanism and settlement patterns.
Taught by: Ousterhout
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 633, ARTH 633
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 235 Introduction to Visual Culture of the Islamic World
A one-semester survey of Islamic art and architecture which examines visual culture as it functions within the larger sphere of Islamic culture in general. Particular attention will be given to relationships between visual culture and literature, using specific case studies, sites or objects which may be related to various branches of Islamic literature, including historical, didactic, philosophical writings, poetry and religious texts. All primary sources are available in English translation.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Holod
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 635, ARTH 635, NELC 285, NELC 685, VLST 235
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 240 Medieval Art
An introductory survey, this course investigates architecture, painting, sculpture, and the "minor arts" of the Middle Ages. Students become familiar with selected major monuments of the Romanesque and Gothic periods, primarily in Western Europe as well as relevant sites around the Mediterranean. Analysis of works emphasizes the cultural context, the thematic content, and the function of objects and monuments. Discussions focus especially on several key themes: the role of luxury in the medieval west; the theological role of images; the revival of classical models and visual modes; social rituals such as pilgrimage and crusading; the cult of the Virgin and the status of women in art; and, more generally, the ideology of visual culture across the political and urban landscapes.
Taught by: Guerin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 640, ARTH 640
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 245 Gothic Architecture: Gold and Stone
Key monuments of the Middle Ages, the Gothic cathedrals of Western Europe present a synthesis of the theological, economic, and social developments of the twelfth through fourteenth centuries. A harmonious marriage between technology and aesthetics, of political power and imagination, these immense and ingenious structures are as famous for their sculptural programs as they are for the liturgies that animated their spaces. Students will also be introduced to local uses of Gothic in Philadelphia architecture to better understand the lived experiences of these built manifestations of transcendence.
Taught by: Guerin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 645, ARTH 645
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 250 Michelangelo and the Art of the Italian Renaissance
An introduction to the work of the Renaissance artist Michelangelo (1475-1564)—his sculptures, paintings, architecture, poetry, and artistic theory—in relation to his patrons, predecessors, and contemporaries, above all Leonardo and Raphael. Topics include artistic creativity and license, religious devotion, the revival of antiquity, observation of nature, art as problem-solving, the public reception and function of artworks, debates about style, artistic rivalry, and traveling artists. Rather than taking the form of a survey, this course selects works as paradigmatic case studies, and will analyze contemporary attitudes toward art of this period through study of primary sources.
Taught by: Kim
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 650
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
**ARTH 254 Global Renaissance and Baroque**
An introduction to transcultural encounters within and beyond early modern Europe, 1450-1600. Topics include: the theory and historiography of global art; artistic relations between Venice, the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, and islands in the Eastern Mediterranean; Portugal’s overseas mercantile network in Africa and Asia; and the Baroque in Latin America, with emphasis upon Brazil. Our discussions focus on these paradigmatic case studies so as to question the language and terms we use to characterize confrontations between native and foreign, the self and the other. Taught by: Kim
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 654
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**ARTH 258 Early Modern Japanese Art and the City of Edo**
Study of the major art forms and architecture of Tokugawa (or Edo) period (1603-1868). In this course, we will consider how the arts of this era occur within an increasingly urban and modern culture, particularly with regard to the city of Edo. Issues of the articulation of authority in the built environment, the reinvention of classical styles, and patronage will be raised. May include some visits to PMA, Penn Museum, or other local collections. Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 657, EALC 150, EALC 550
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**ARTH 261 Northern Renaissance Art**
This course critically examines concepts traditionally associated with the Renaissance by focusing on the exchange of artistic ideas throughout the Holy Roman Empire and across different media, such as the altarpieces of Jan van Eyck, the expressive drawings of Albrecht Durer and Hans Baldung Grien, the peasant studies of Pieter Bruegel and the prints of satirists who wished to remain anonymous. The material is organized thematically around four topics: religious art as piety and politics; antiquity as a source of tradition and imagination; the formulation of a public discourse that exposed social threats; and the distinctiveness of artistic claims of individual achievement. A motif throughout the course is the question of how the survival of fragments may be presented in museum contexts as parts standing in for an absent whole. We will also consider how historians approach designs for works of art now lost or never completed. Encouraging encounters with art and artifacts around the city, assignments focus on objects in Philadelphia collections. Taught by: Brisman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 661
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**ARTH 262 Netherlandish Art**
Dutch and Flemish painting in the 15th and 16th centuries with special emphasis on the contributions of Robert Campin, Jan van Eyck and Roger van der Weyden, Bosch, and Bruegel. Also included are topics on the development of prints as well as the dialogue with Italian art. Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 662, DTCH 261
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**ARTH 267 Latin American Art**
The numerous traditions of Latin American art have been formed from the historical confluence of Indigenous, European, African, and Asian cultural traditions, each one impacting the others. This course serves as an introduction to these hybrid New World art forms and movements by both providing a large chronological sweep (1492-present) and focusing on several specific countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Peru, and Argentina. Taught by: Shaw, Kim
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 667, LALS 267, LALS 667
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**ARTH 270 The Modern City**
A study of the European and American city in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Emphasis is placed on the history of architecture and urban design; political, sociological, and economic factors also receive attention. The class considers the development of London, St. Petersburg, Washington, Boston, Paris, Vienna and Philadelphia. Taught by: Brownlee, D.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 670, URBS 276
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**ARTH 271 Modern Architecture, 1700-1900**
The history of western architecture, ca. 1700-1900, when architecture was transformed to serve a world that had been reshaped by political and industrial revolutions. Topics to be considered include the Rococo, the English Garden, Palladianism, Romanticism, neo-classicism, the picturesque, the Greek and Gothic Revivals, and the search for a new style. Taught by: Brownlee, D
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 671
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**ARTH 272 Material History of Photography**
Photography is a young medium and yet its history can be traced through differing narratives. Was the medium born in a French patent office, when the sun burned a handprint in silver salt, or when human eyes saw an inverted image projected into a dark space? Does photography reflect the perspective and biases of its inventors and users, or does it re-invent how we see the world? This seminar will take theoretical and material approaches to understanding the histories of photography. In addition to lectures and readings, students will handle original materials and make photographs using historic chemical-processes and styles. Taught by: Vershbow
Course offered fall; even-numbered years
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 274 Facing America
This course explores the visual history of race in the United States as both self-fashioning and cultural mythology by examining the ways that conceptions of Native American, Latino, and Asian identity, alongside ideas of Blackness and Whiteness, have combined to create the various cultural ideologies of class, gender, and sexuality that remain evident in historical visual and material culture. We also investigate the ways that these conceptions have subsequently helped to launch new visual entertainments, including museum spectacles, blackface minstrelsy, and early film, from the colonial period through the 1940s.
Taught by: Shaw, Staff
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 674, ASAM 294, CIMS 293, LALS 274
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Satisfies Cultural Diversity in the U.S. requirement.

ARTH 276 Impressionism
Impressionism opened the pictorial field to light, perception, science, modernity, bourgeois leisure and famously the material qualities of paint itself. This course will survey the movement’s major contexts and proponents—Manet, Monet, Morisot, Cezanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Rodin—from its origins in the 1860’s to its demise in the 1890’s, as well as its subsequent adaptions throughout the world until World War I. Particular attention is paid to the artists’ critical reception and the historical conditions which allowed one nation, France, to claim the emergence of early Modernism so firmly for itself. The course also analyzes the effects of the rapidly changing social and cultural fabric of Paris, and its affects on artistic developments. We also look outside of France’s borders to Germany and Britain.
Taught by: Dombrowski
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 676
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 277 The Rise of Modernity: Arts of the 19th Century
The nineteenth century is often considered as fast-paced, politically volatile and new-media obsessed as our own age. This course explores the nineteenth century’s claim to have produced the first truly modern culture, focusing on the visual arts and metropolitan spaces of Europe and North America in their intellectual and social contexts. Stretching from the American and French Revolutions to the eve of World War I, topics to be covered include: the rise of capitalist and industrialist culture, art and revolutionary upheaval, global travel and empire, the origins of modernist art and architecture, and new media such as stereoscopes, iron and glass construction, and photography. Major artistic personalities of the age, from Jacques-Louis David and Gustave Courbet to Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh, and from Friedrich Schinkel and, Baron Haussmann to Frank Furness and Frank Lloyd Wright, are discussed. Each lecture will be followed by a brief period of discussion, and regular field trips take students to examine art and architecture first hand, in the museums and on the streets of Philadelphia.
Taught by: Brownlee, Dombrowski
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 677
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 278 American Art
This course surveys the most important and interesting art produced in the United States (or by American artists living abroad) up through the 1950s. This period encompasses the history of both early and modern art in the U.S., from its first appearances to its rise to prominence and institutionalization. While tracking this history, the course examines art’s relation to historical processes of modernization (industrialization, the development of transportation and communications, the spread of corporate organization in business, urbanization, technological development, the rise of mass media and mass markets, etc.) and to the economic polarization, social fragmentation, political conflict, and the cultural changes these developments entailed. In these circumstances, art is drawn simultaneously toward truth and fraud, realism and artifice, science and spirituality, commodification and ephemerality, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, individualism and collectivity, the past and the future, professionalization and popularity, celebrating modern life and criticizing it.
Taught by: Leja, Shaw
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 678
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Satisfies Cultural Diversity in the U.S. requirement.

ARTH 281 Modern Architecture,1900-Present
The architecture of Europe and America from the late nineteenth century until the present is the central subject of this course, but some time is also devoted to Latin American and Asian architecture and to the important issues of modern city planning. Topics discussed include the Arts and Crafts movement, Art Nouveau, Expressionism, Art Deco, the International Style, and Post-modernism. The debate over the role of technology in modern life and art, the search for a universal language of architectural communication, and the insistent demand that architecture serve human society are themes that are traced throughout the course. Among the important figures to be considered are Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, Robert Venturi, and Denise Scott Brown. The course includes weekly discussion sessions and several excursions to view architecture in Philadelphia.
Taught by: Brownlee
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 681
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills Cross-Cultural Analysis Requirement
ARTH 285 Modern Art
The history of modern art is closely tied to and largely unfolds from the history of Western Imperialism. While the technologies made possible by colonial resource extraction produced new ways of looking, modern conceptions of the self and how to represent it developed in dialogue with racialized notions of the other. This course focuses on encounters between the cultures of Africa and Europe, from 1880 to 1960, and on the visual practices that emerged on both continents as a result. Topics of special interest will include racial difference and the birth of photography, colonial masquerade, impressionism, symbols of power in royal arts, cubism, mass marketing and colonial self-fashioning, West African studio photography, world’s fairs and the Musee de l’Homme, Dada and surrealism, Negritude and interwar Paris, anti-aesthetics, colonial arts education, National art schools in the age of African independence, humanism and South African photography under Apartheid.
Taught by: Roach
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 283, ARTH 685
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 286 Modern Art: Picasso to Pollock
Early twentieth-century art in Europe is marked by a number of exciting transformations. This period witnessed the rise of abstraction in painting and sculpture, as well as the inventions of collage, photomontage, constructed sculpture, the ready made and found object, and performance art. Encounters with the arts of Africa, Oceania and other traditions unfamiliar in the West spurred innovations in media, technique, and subject matter. Artists began to respond to the challenge of photography, to organize themselves into movements, and in some cases, to challenge the norms of art through "anti-art." A new gallery system replaced traditional forms of exhibiting and selling art, and artists took on new roles as publicists, manifesto writers, and exhibition organizers. This course examines these developments, with attention to formal innovations as well as cultural and political contexts.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 686
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 289 Topics in Film Studies
This course is an exploration of multiple forces that explain the growth, global spread and institutionalization of international film festivals. The global boom in film industry has resulted in an incredible proliferation of film festivals taking place all around the world, and festivals have become one of the biggest growth industries. A dizzying convergence site of cinephilia, media spectacle, business agendas and geopolitical purposes, film festivals offer a fruitful ground on which to investigate the contemporary global cinema network. Film festivals will be approached as a site where numerous lines of the world cinema map come together, from culture and commerce, experimentation and entertainment, political interests and global business patterns. To analyze the network of film festivals, we will address a wide range of issues, including historical and geopolitical forces that shape the development of festivals, festivals as an alternative marketplace, festivals as a media event, programming/agenda setting, prizes, cinephilia, and city marketing. Individual case studies of international film festivals-Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary, Toronto, Sundance among others-will enable us to address all these diverse issues but also to establish a theoretical framework with which to approach the study of film festivals. For students planning to attend the Penn-in-Cannes program, this course provides an excellent foundation that will prepare you for the on-site experience of the King of all festivals.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 202, COML 292, ENGL 292
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 290 Post War Japanese Cinema
Mizoguchi Kenji, Ozu Yasujiro, and Kurosawa Akira are recognized today as three of the most important and influential directors in Japanese cinema. In their films of the late 1940s and 1950s, these directors focused upon issues surrounding the human condition and the perception of truth, history, beauty, death, and other issues of the postwar period. This course places their films in period context, and pays particular attention to the connections to other visual media, and to how "art" and "history" are being defined in the cinematic context. How other directors also took up these issues, and referred to the "big three" is also be discussed.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 690, CIMS 223, EALC 156, EALC 556
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 292 Topics in Digital/New Media
Topic varies. Spring 2015: Documents are written texts, evidence, inscriptions, and much more. Documentary films have been used to tell stories, share experiences, spread propaganda, resist exploitation, invoke memories, and much more. How can we think of information and meaning in relation to the shared histories of document and documentary? Database management systems based on digital technologies have technically transformed ways of classifying, storing, and aggregating data, but have they really changed our experiences of mediating with our past, present, and future? Issues of agency, memory, representation, performativity, interactivity, and posthumanism are entangled in discussions of databases and archives and our engagement with them. In this course we will relate and juxtapose readings connecting documents, documentaries, and archives. We will read media and cultural theorists such as Lisa Gitelman, Akira Lippit, and Wendy Chun alongside novelists like Franz Kafka and Ismail Kadare. Assignments include one assigned/selected report from field visits to libraries and museums, one reading presentation and blogging assignment, and a final paper or practice-based art project.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 278, COML 066, ENGL 278, REES 066
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 293 Topics in Cultural Studies
This specific course explores aspects of Film Cultural Studies intensively. Specific course topics vary from year to year. See the Cinema Studies website at <http://cinemastudies.sas.upenn.edu/> for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Beckman, Corrigan
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 295, COML 295, ENGL 295
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 294 Art Now
One of the most striking features of today’s art world is the conspicuous place occupied in it by the photographic image. Large-scale color photographs and time-based installations in projections are everywhere. Looking back, we can see that much of the art making of the past 60 years has also been defined by this medium, regardless of the form it takes. Photographic images have inspired countless paintings, appeared in combines and installations, morphed into sculptures, drawings and performances, and served both as the object and the vehicle of institutional critique. They are also an increasingly important exhibition site: where most of us go to see earthworks, happenings and body-art. This course is a three-part exploration of our photographic present.
Taught by: Silverman
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: ARTH 694, ENGL 063, GSWS 294, VLST 236
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 295 Cinema and Media
This course will provide an introduction to some of the most important film theory debates, and allow us to explore how writers and filmmakers from different countries and historical periods have attempted to make sense of the changing phenomenon known as “cinema,” to think cinematically. Topics under consideration may include: spectatorship, authorship, the apparatus, sound, editing, realism, race, gender and sexuality, stardom, the culture industry, the nation and decolonization, what counts as film theory and what counts as cinema, and the challenges of considering film theory in a global context, including the challenge of working across languages. There will be a weekly film screening for this course. No knowledge of film theory is presumed.
Course requirements: attendance at lecture and participation in lecture and section discussions; canvas postings; 1 in-class mid-term; 1 final project.
Taught by: Redrobe
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 695, CIMS 305, COML 299, ENGL 305, GSWS 295
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 296 Contemporary Art
Many people experience the art of our time as bewildering, shocking, too ordinary (my kid could do that), too intellectual (elitist), or simply not as art. Yet what makes this art engaging is that it raises the question of what art is or can be, employs a range of new materials and technologies, and addresses previously excluded audiences. It invades non-art spaces, blurs the boundaries between text and image, document and performance, asks questions about institutional frames (the museum, gallery, and art journal), and generates new forms of criticism. Much of the “canon” of what counts as important is still in flux, especially for the last twenty years. And the stage is no longer centered only on the United States and Europe, but is becoming increasingly global. The course will introduce students to the major movements and artists of the post-war period, with emphasis on social and historical context, critical debates, new media, and the changing role of the spectator/participant.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 696
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 300 Undergraduate Methods Seminar
Topic varies. This course, required for history of art majors, acquaints students with a wide variety of historical and contemporary approaches to studying art, architecture, material culture, and visual culture.
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 306 Methods of Object Study
This seminar introduces students to methods of analyzing the material, physical, and visual aspects of objects in a museum, gallery, or library context. Students will receive training in curatorial practices, as well as close observation and precise descriptive terminology for materials and techniques, and examine essential tools of conservation and technical analysis. For the Spring 2020 semester, this immersive course will stress the importance of developing the visual literacy essential for connoisseurship of works of art on paper. Students will learn to use close observational skills to understand artist's choice, the subtle inherent characteristics of the material and physical aspects of works on paper, their context and significance. The focus will be on examination and discussion of works in the Philadelphia Museum of Art collection and the study of the materials and techniques used by artists from the fifteenth through twenty first centuries. We will begin by considering what questions to ask about a work of art on paper and approaches and tools for looking and informing our answers. Throughout the semester students will engage in direct examination, study, and discourse about the physical characteristics of papers, dry drawing materials, watercolors, inks, and print processes, and their implications for the completed artwork. Condition and other conservation considerations will be addressed. Most sessions will take place in the paper conservation laboratory at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Brief readings for each session will be chosen to educate about the physical aspects of the materials and to stimulate discussion, which will be an important part of the course. Several trips to off-site workshops may be included. Each student will carry out technical examination of two works for written and class presentation. The instructors will be available before or after class or by appointment to continue the discussion and to discuss student projects.
Taught by: Ash/Primeau
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 307 Introduction to Museums
This course introduces students to the history, theory and modern practice of museums. Using the resources of the Penn Museum, the course discusses curatorial practice, education, exhibition design and conservation, while exploring the theoretical and ethical issues confronted by museums. Particularly relevant for those interested in archaeology, anthropology, art history, cultural heritage and public education.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CLST 303
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 305 Spiegel-Wilks Seminar
Spring 2019: Multicultural, multi-religious, and spanning millennia, India's artistic heritage is complicated and contested. This course is not an introduction to Indian art but rather an exploration of some of the conceptual, ethical, aesthetic, and practical issues involved in exhibiting, interpreting, and collecting it by U.S. museums in the 21st century. Students will dive behind the scenes with a working curator to focus on permanent collections. Case studies include two recent projects the new South Asian Galleries at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (opened 2016) and the Seattle Asian Art Museum (expected opening late 2019). Weekly readings will address the politics of display and ownership; religious objects in museums; identity and community; design, technology, and visitor experience. These will be enhanced by discussions with other Philadelphia Museum of Art staff (e.g. specialists in audience and provenance research, conservator, educator interpreter). In March the class will take a two-day trip to New York during annual Asian Art Week to visit dealers, auction houses, and museums. There will be two short writing assignments (a critical analysis of an installation walkthrough and a recommendation for the purchase of a work of art you find in New York). As a final project, students will create and present an original virtual mini-exhibition that could become a part of an actual gallery rotation at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Classes will be held at the PMA; New York trip is required and will span at least one weekday.
PERMISSION NEEDED FROM INSTRUCTOR, CLASS SIZE LIMITED
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 205, SAST 305
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 313 Topics in East Asian Art
Topic varies from semester to semester. This seminar focuses on issues confronting artists from East Asia working in today's contemporary art world. We will begin by considering the terms that constitute the definition of the "modern" and the "contemporary," asking how, by whom, and for whom these terms have been configured. By gaining a familiarity with the major styles, media, institutions, artists, and concepts over the twentieth century in East Asia, we will develop tools to analyze how contemporary artists are crossing boundaries, challenging the limits of nationalism, and dealing with shifting political and social grounds. We will take our analysis on site at the Venice Biennale, looking closely at how East Asian artists are participating in, as well as contesting, this influential international exposition. Students will make close studies of national pavilions as well as the international exhibition, generating analyses of these display spaces, and will produce a group website in response to the Biennale as an alternative virtual exhibition. By permission only
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

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ARTH 315 Topics in Japanese Art
Spring 2018: This course will focus on Japanese woodblock prints, printed books, and paintings from the seventeenth through the mid-nineteenth century in the genre of ukiyo-e. Among questions we will consider are: How did Ukiyo-e or the pictures of the floating world emerge as a genre and what was at stake for its makers and consumers? What are new approaches that we can use for the field? Topics will include themes shown in prints (celebrity actors and courtesans, the landscape and others), specific artists and their works. We will study original works held in the Kislak Collection and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as well as other local collections as available, and we will work with emerging digital humanities tools for individual and group projects.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 154, EALC 554
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 318 Topics in African Art
Topic varies. Spring 2017: The dynamic, multi-media character of African art makes it particularly compelling as part of new art historical methodologies. Digital media–photographs, music, video, global mapping systems and 3-D printing–is reshaping understandings of African art history. This seminar critically explores how African art history has been taking shape through digital means, particularly online among professional arts institutions and as employed by contemporary African and African diasporic artists. As we consider how the digital world is shaping African art history we will encounter important issues in regards to ethics, cultural studies, performance theory, race, gender and global definitions of modernity. We will cover a very broad geography and time scale in this course in order to consider different movements of African art through the lens of the digital humanities. Students should bring a laptop to class as we work with WordPress to create web-based galleries, timelines and related critical writing.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 318
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 320 Aegean Bronze Age Art
Taught by: Shank
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 323 Origins of Art / Origins of Writing
Each of the earliest systems of writing had intimate and enduring ties to pictorial traditions. This seminar addresses the fundamental relationship between texts and visual imagery in the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Chinese, and Maya traditions. The class will take a comparative approach to examine the parallel development of scripts and images, extending from their earliest beginnings to their on-going lives as mature systems. As the individual scripts became more capable of representing speech, the subject matter, composition, and function of images changed, and one goal of this class is to identify these processes. Emphasis will be put on seeing text and image as collaborative and interactive constructions, in which parts of a single message can be encoded and presented in different ways. The class will make extensive use of the collections and the curatorial expertise of the Penn Museum.
Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ANTH 323, NELC 323
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 325 Topics in Greco-Roman Art
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ANTH 325
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 332 Topics in Byzantine Art
Topic varies. Fall 2017: This undergraduate seminar explores the Byzantine icon and its legacy. Spanning nearly two millennia, from the emergence of Christian sacred portraiture to the reception of icon painting by the early twentieth-century Russian avant-garde, the seminar will introduce you to the history, historiography, and theories of the icon. While our focus will be on Byzantium and the wider world of Orthodox Christianity, especially in the Slavic Balkans and Eastern Europe, the seminar will also engage with fundamental questions concerning the nature, status, and agency of images across cultures. Topics to be addressed include iconoclasm and the problem of idolatry; the social and ritual lives of icons; authorship, originality, and replication; viewer response and the cultural construction of vision; the frontier between art and the sacred image; and the afterlife of the icon in modernity.
Taught by: Ousterhout, Drpic
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 333 Topics in Japanese Art
Spring 2018: The course will focus on Japanese woodblock prints, printed books, and paintings from the seventeenth through the mid-nineteenth century in the genre of ukiyo-e. Among questions we will consider are: How did Ukiyo-e or the pictures of the floating world emerge as a genre and what was at stake for its makers and consumers? What are new approaches that we can use for the field? Topics will include themes shown in prints (celebrity actors and courtesans, the landscape and others), specific artists and their works. We will study original works held in the Kislak Collection and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as well as other local collections as available, and we will work with emerging digital humanities tools for individual and group projects.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 154, EALC 554
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 334 Topics in African Art
Topic varies. Spring 2017: The dynamic, multi-media character of African art makes it particularly compelling as part of new art historical methodologies. Digital media–photographs, music, video, global mapping systems and 3-D printing–is reshaping understandings of African art history. This seminar critically explores how African art history has been taking shape through digital means, particularly online among professional arts institutions and as employed by contemporary African and African diasporic artists. As we consider how the digital world is shaping African art history we will encounter important issues in regards to ethics, cultural studies, performance theory, race, gender and global definitions of modernity. We will cover a very broad geography and time scale in this course in order to consider different movements of African art through the lens of the digital humanities. Students should bring a laptop to class as we work with WordPress to create web-based galleries, timelines and related critical writing.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 318
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 335 Topics in Greco-Roman Art
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ANTH 325
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 336 Topics in Byzantine Art
Topic varies. Fall 2017: This undergraduate seminar explores the Byzantine icon and its legacy. Spanning nearly two millennia, from the emergence of Christian sacred portraiture to the reception of icon painting by the early twentieth-century Russian avant-garde, the seminar will introduce you to the history, historiography, and theories of the icon. While our focus will be on Byzantium and the wider world of Orthodox Christianity, especially in the Slavic Balkans and Eastern Europe, the seminar will also engage with fundamental questions concerning the nature, status, and agency of images across cultures. Topics to be addressed include iconoclasm and the problem of idolatry; the social and ritual lives of icons; authorship, originality, and replication; viewer response and the cultural construction of vision; the frontier between art and the sacred image; and the afterlife of the icon in modernity.
Taught by: Ousterhout, Drpic
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 343 Topics in Medieval Renaissance Art
Topics vary from semester to semester. In Fall 2019, this course will examine the commission, production, and display of art at the Valois courts from the start of the Hundred Years War with England 1330s to the death of Francis I in 1547. During these two centuries, conflict and conquest shaped the making of artwork in profound and sometimes unexpected ways: precarious dynastic claims could be substantiated through carefully crafted images, while foreign artists (including Rosso Fiorentino, Francesco Primaticcio, and Leonardo da Vinci) could be called upon to boost the monarch's prestige. Investigating the role played by objects in cultural diplomacy and propaganda, this course will examine works in a wide variety of techniques including easel painting, manuscript illumination, tapestry, armor, and metalwork, without neglecting less tangible art forms such as feasting, chivalric tournaments, and royal processions. Topics will include the art of the gift, female patronage, the interaction between text and image, and the role of artists in shaping a royal visual identity. The course will include visits to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and an illuminated manuscript handling session at the Free Library of Philadelphia.
Taught by: Kim
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 351 Topics in Early Modern Art Theory
Topic varies. Spring 2016: What does it mean to write about art? What are the historical origins of this undertaking? How does language mediate the intellectual, somatic, and cultural rapport between the viewing self and the physical object? As an initial response to these questions we will examine the writings of the Tuscan artist and critic Giorgio Vasari (1511-1574), the biographer of such renowned artists as Leonardo, Raphael, Donatello, and Michelangelo. In addition to considering works of art described in Vasari's accounts, we will pay close attention to his language and its relationship with other types of writing: saints lives, chronicles, legends, guidebooks, anecdotes, jokes, gospel, and sermons. Issues to be explored include: the process of craft and handwork, notions of genius and inspiration, and the relationship between the visual arts and natural environment.
Taught by: Herman
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 362 Topics in Northern Baroque
Topic varies. Spring 2016: Undergraduate seminar focusing on all aspects of the life and works of Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669). Students will produce a research paper on any aspect of the artist's life and times, and course sessions will explore self-portraits, artistic development, specific painting types (figure studies, landscapes, portraits), case study individual works (the Paris Bathsheba and the Philadelphia Museum Head of Christ), mythologies, religious works, and the etchings of Rembrandt. Weekly discussions—one short analysis paper in addition to the term research paper.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: DTCH 262
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 363 Spanish Art
This course examines one of the most vibrant and productive periods in Spain's artistic history, the Golden Age of Spanish art, between the late 16th and 18th centuries. Then a global imperial power, Spain maintained strong connections with key artistic centers throughout Europe, while at the same time assimilating new materials and forms through its colonial possessions in the Americas and Asia. With an emphasis on painting, but touching upon sculpture and the decorative arts, students will closely examine specific works, discussing the role of artists, patrons, and the market, in their creation. These objects will offer students the opportunity to delve into the artistic, political, and religious forces that shaped this triumphant period of Spanish visual culture.
Taught by: Castro
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 374 Material History of Photography
Photography is a young medium and yet its history can be traced through differing narratives. Was the medium born in a French patent office, when the sun burned a handprint in sliver salt, or when human eyes saw an inverted image projected into a dark space? Does photography reflect the perspective and biases of its inventors and users, or does it re-invent how we see the world? This seminar will take theoretical and material approaches to understanding the histories of photography. In addition to lectures and readings, students will handle original materials and make photographs using historic chemical-processes and styles.
Taught by: Vershbow
Course offered fall; even-numbered years
Also Offered As: VLST 237
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 375 Topics in 19th Century Art
Topic varies from semester to semester. Collectively, Vincent van Gogh, Paul Cezanne, and Paul Gaugin, although barely recognized by their contemporaries at their deaths, transformed modernist art. In their wake, painting became more starkly chromatic, shrunk pictorial space to a point when linear perspective became almost extinct, and stylized subject-matter like never before. To arrive at some of the most startling painting in the history of art, they made personal sacrifices of many kinds, including undergoing psychic trauma, escaping a comfortable European life, and foregoing public recognition. This seminar will look afresh at their oeuvres and careers, describe their seminal painterly achievements, and place them within the historical context of late 19th-century France and, not least, its Empire and imperial pretentions. Along the way we will read some of the most important 19th, 20th and 21st-century critics and art historians who have grappled with the post-impressionist paradigm and its import for the history of avant-garde painting.
Taught by: Dombrowski
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 379 Global Media
This course explores a broad media landscape through new critical and conceptual approaches. It is designated as a Benjamin Franklin Seminar. This course maps the footprints of television at a global scale. Adopting comparative approaches, we will be studying TV's formation of national and global discourses, and thereby recognizing not only television's impact on processes of globalization, but also the ability of television to matter globally. Working through concepts of "broadcasting," "flow," "circulation," and "circumvention," the course examines the movement of (and blocks encountered by) television programs and signals across national borders and cultures. The course particularly focuses on how global television cultures have been transformed due to shifts from broadcasting technologies to (Internet) streaming services? Navigating from United States and Cuba to India and Egypt, the readings in the course illuminate how particular televusual genres, institutions, and reception practices emerged in various countries during specific historical periods. We shall be addressing a range of questions: what kind of global phenomenon is television? Can we study television in countries where we do not know the existing local languages? In what different ways (through what platforms, interfaces, and screens) do people in different continents access televisual content? What explains the growing transnational exports of Turkish and Korean TV dramas? What is the need to historically trace the infrastructural systems like satellites (and optical fiber cables) that made (and continue to make) transmission of television programming possible across the world? How do fans circumvent geo-blocking to watch live sporting events? Assignments include submitting weekly discussion questions and a final paper. See the English Department's website at www.english.upenn.edu for a description of the current offerings.
Taught by: Mukherjee
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 378, ENGL 378
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 384 Cuban Visual Culture
This course will focus on the urban history and cultural politics of contemporary Cuba with an emphasis on contemporary art and contemporary developments in the city of Havana. Students will learn about the Spanish influence on early colonial art, the development of formal academic art training and the changes to art instruction and the form and content of art created since the Revolution.
Taught by: Shaw, Schmenner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 384, LALS 384
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 386 Topics in 20th Century Art
Topic Varies. Spring 2018: In 1913, Marcel Duchamp posed a nebulous question central to much of the art of the twentieth century. As a young painter in Paris, he wrote in a private note: "Is it possible to make works that are not of art?" What are the possibilities of making in a modern world that has alienated labor from its products and commodified the work of art? What is the artist's role amidst forces of rapid industrialization, mechanization, and automation? Duchamp would continuously explore these questions in a career that stretched into the 1960s, pushing painting, sculpture, and film in new directions through the use of objects not traditionally associated with art a porcelain urinal, a collection of settled dust, a tuft of human hair. This course examines issues of materiality and media in Duchamp's art and in modernism more broadly. Meetings will include visits to the Duchamp collection at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Readings will draw from art history, literature, and social and political theory.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 388 Topics in Modern and Contemporary Art
Topic varies. Spring 2019: The end of the last century saw a shift in the way contemporary artistic practice was conceived. This class will consider the work and writings of key artists and thinkers of the last 50 years who have tackled issues of race, class, consumption, marginality, nationality, and modernism.
Taught by: Shaw
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 388, LALS 389
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 389 Topics In Film Studies
This topic course explores aspects of Cinema Studies intensively. Specific course topics vary from year to year. See the Cinema Studies website at <http://cinemastudies.sas.upenn.edu/> for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 392, COML 391, ENGL 392
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 391 Topics in Film History
Specific course topics vary from year to year. See the Cinema Studies website at <http://cinemastudies.sas.upenn.edu/> for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 201, COML 201, ENGL 291
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 393 Topics in Film Studies
Topic varies. Spring 2017: This course will examine key moments in the history of civil rights through a cinematic lens. Over the course of the semester, we will explore how filmmakers have depicted the lives, aspirations, and strategies of those who have struggled for equal rights; how different struggles have intersected with each other; what aesthetic strategies have been adopted to represent freedom and the denial of it; and how effective cinematic efforts to contribute to increased freedom have been as well as what criteria we use to evaluate success or failure in the first place. Each week, we will watch a film and read a series of texts that will be drawn from a variety of arenas, including histories of civil rights; civil rights pamphlets and speeches; filmmaker interviews; film and media theory; memoirs; and theories of race, gender and sexuality. Course requirements: mutual respect; completion of all readings and screenings; participation in class discussion; weekly online responses; a final project that can be a research paper, film, art project, or community-based initiative.
Taught by: Redrobe
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 393, CIMS 393, ENGL 301, GSWS 394
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 398 Senior Thesis
Independent research.
Taught by: Faculty
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor required.
Activity: Senior Thesis
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: See department for appropriate section numbers.

ARTH 399 Independent Study
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: See department for appropriate section numbers

ARTH 425 Late Antique Arts
What is 'Late Antiquity'? In 312 when Roman emperor Constantine inaugurated a Christian empire, 'Roman' culture was centuries old. The period ca. 200-650 CE saw profound transformations that launched Medieval, Byzantine and Islamic traditions. In this epoch of economic and political upheaval destruction was frequent but partial: Rome long survived, Constantine's 'new Rome,' Constantinople flourished, and around the Empire both proto-global visual culture and local forms prospered. Roman cultural models authorized both innovation and passion for tradition, in forms and styles: we critique art-historical models for Late Antique 'decline,' analyse habits of material reuse and curation, and look at new Christian and Jewish roles for Roman things as well as polytheist visual survival. Foreign allies and enemies, and new peoples invading an already polyethnic Empire, interacted with Greco-Roman Late Antiquity: we visit arts of Sasanian and Islamic empires east and south, and 'barbarian' domains in Africa, Europe, Britain. Media discussed, for sacred, courtly, domestic, funerary, political and civic spaces and structures include not just 'monumental' painting, mosaic, sculpture, but also objects of silver, ceramic, ivory, figural textile, glass; painted books; jewelry; mass-media artifacts like coins and pilgrimage tokens. We also study Late Antique texts on art, objects, space and viewership.
Taught by: Ann Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 425, CLST 425
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 426 Late Antique Roman Art
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 427 Roman Sculpture
Survey of the Republican origins and Imperial development of Roman sculpture - free-standing, relief, and architectural - from ca. 150 BC to 350 AD. We concentrate on sculpture in the capital city and on court and state arts, emphasizing commemorative public sculpture and Roman habits of decorative display; genres examined include relief, portraits, sarcophagi, luxury and minor arts(gems, metalwork, coinage). We evaluate the choice and evolution of styles with reference to the functions of sculptural representation in Roman culture and society.
Taught by: Kuttner, Rose
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 427, CLST 427
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 428 Hellenistic Art and Spectacle
Hellenistic usually names art in the age of Mediterranean culture from the 4th century BCE and the rise of Alexander the Great's Macedon, and the Greco-Macedonian conquest of the Persian Empire, to Cleopatra of Egypt's defeat by Rome at the end of the Republic. Our course looks also at the age of Augustus and his successors, 1st century CE. While Greek and Macedonian practice in city-states and kingdoms is our launching point, this course also looks at international culture and cultural interaction among peoples from North Africa and Etrusco-Roman Italy, Egypt, Anatolia, the Mideast and Central Asia. We probe art, artifacts, and visual display from a range of settings, from sanctuary to house, palace and parade, and in all media, from marble monuments to pottery and jewelry. Our archaeology of Hellenistic visual culture also looks at the rich body of Hellenistic and Roman texts of art history, art criticism, and the description of objects and image, to better understand the Hellenistic maker, patron, and viewer. No prerequisites.
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 428
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 435 Medieval Islamic Art & Architecture
An introduction to the major architectural monuments and trends, as well as to the best-known objects of the medieval (seventh-to fourteenth-century) Islamic world. Attention is paid to such themes as the continuity of late antique themes, architecture as symbol of community and power, the importance of textiles and primacy of writing. Suitable for students of literature, history, anthropology as well as art history.
Taught by: Holod
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 435, NELC 489
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 501 Curatorial Seminar
Curatorial seminars expose students to the complexity of studying and working with objects in the context of public display. With the guidance of faculty and museum professionals, students learn what it means to curate an exhibition, create catalogues and gallery text, and/or develop programming for exhibitions of art and visual/material culture. For the Fall 2019 semester, students in this curatorial seminar will participate in planning the exhibition of Japanese illustrated books from the Tress collection to be held in the Kislak Center in spring 2021. Japanese illustrated books are celebrated for their high technical and aesthetic achievements and the collection spans all genres and formats over more than three hundred years. In this course, students will be thinking through how we can tell the story of the illustrated book in Japan in the space of the exhibition. We will think through how these materials related to their broad and largely literate audiences, and we'll pay close attention to artists, genres, technologies, and subjects. Students will conduct research, prepare didactic labels, write entries for the catalogue, and develop the website and symposium as part of their curatorial practice. There will be extensive hands-on engagement with examples from the Kislak collections as well as practical training in papermaking, materials, and binding. By permission only.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 509, NELC 501
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 505 Masters in Liberal Arts Proseminar
Topic varies. Summer 2019: Murals have long seduced the imagination of American artists and viewers. Rendered on a grand scale, murals address groups rather than individuals; cladding the walls and ceilings of courthouses, schools, lobbies, and private homes, they insert fine art into the flows and currents of daily life. This class uses the mural as a means to explore broader questions about nation, history, identity, and public space in American art from the nineteenth century through the present day. What are the politics of making art for display on a city building rather than inside a museum? How have artists used scale and architectural space to craft compelling narratives and monuments? Topics covered will include murals of the American Renaissance, the modern Mexican mural movement, architectural decoration, the New Deal art programs, and today's community mural movement, among others. We will focus in particular on the rich history of mural making in Philadelphia, known around the world for its contemporary mural scene.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 502, COML 510, GSWS 574
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 511 Topics in Indian Art
Topic varies. Fall 2016: Important as texts have been to South Asia's history, perceptions of the physical world dominate experience within South Asian cultures. Seeing and being seen, vocalizing and hearing, contribute to the construction of meaning. This pro-seminar will approach South Asia's perceptual world as expressed and tested by art, and methods to frame art as a source of knowledge.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SAST 505
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 513 Ukiyo-e: Japanese Prints and Paintings
Topic varies.
Taught by Davis
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 514 Topics in East Asian Art
Topic varies. Spring 2017: In this seminar, led by Hiromi Kinoshita, The Hannah L. and J. Welles Henderson Associate Curator of Chinese Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, students will learn about the considerations of a gallery reinstallation relating to the presentation of the Chinese collections at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. With more than 7,000 objects spanning from the Neolithic to the present, the reinstallation aims to display highlights and strengths of the collection that include early ceramics, porcelains, sculpture, furniture and architectural interiors with paintings and textiles. Students will study original objects of different media from the collection and learn about curatorial practices that include examination and analysis, connoisseurship, exhibition layout and label writing. Previous knowledge of Chinese art history and culture would be advantageous.
Taught by: Davis, Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 517 History of the Book in East Asia
Spring 2018: From handscrolls to manga, books play a vital role in East Asian societies. In this course we will introduce the spread of book cultures across East Asia and reconsider the role and impact of material texts on societies in China, Korea, and Japan. Among the questions we will engage are: What is a book, an author, or an edition? How do readers affect books? How do publishers decide when to use illustrations, woodblock printing, or movable type? How has the history of books differed in China, Japan, and Korea from the history of the book in the West? We will consider various media (bamboo, paper, silk, and the digital), formats (scrolls, folded books, bound books, small to oversize), and the tensions between handwritten manuscript and printed pages. Hands-on sessions may include paper-making, bookbinding, and printing. This is an Objects-Based Learning course, using materials from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and the Penn Museum, with visits to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Requires no knowledge of any Asian language.
Taught by: Davis, Chance
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 260, EALC 661
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 520 Topics in Aegean Bronze Age
Topic varies from semester to semester. This Fall 2019 seminar will discuss The Architecture of Akrotiri, Thera. Around 3,500 years ago a culture thrived on the small island of Thera in the Cycladic islands of Greece. Excavations have revealed a portion of a sophisticated town with multi-storied buildings decorated with elaborate fresco programs and equipped with all the necessities to support a cosmopolitan community with trade contacts reaching throughout the Mediterranean, Egypt, and the Ancient Near East. Due to the Bronze Age eruption of the volcano at the center of the island, Akrotiri is known as the best-preserved Late Cycladic site in the Aegean. In this class, we will examine the architecture and frescoes, or wall paintings, of Akrotiri and explore what they reveal to us about this unique group of people. Students will write and present two research papers to the class.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 520
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 521 Topics in Ancient Mediterranean Art
Topic varies. Fall 2017: Painted vases constitute the most important and comprehensive collection of visual evidence that survives from ancient Greece. In this course, we will examine the development of Greek painted vases, with particular emphasis on the pottery of Corinth and Athens in the late 7th and 6th centuries BC. The extensive collection of Greek vases in the University of Pennsylvania Museum will be an important resource for this course.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 521
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 522 Topics in Ancient Iranian Art
Topic varies. Spring 2018: This seminar will focus on the environmental, archaeological and textual record for settlement in the Persian/Arabian Gulf region from the Neolithic to the pre-Islamic Late Antique. Emphasis will be on the settlement history and material culture. Special attention will be paid to the close interaction of the local communities on the Arabian side of the Gulf with those on the Iranian/Indus valley side. The patterns of sea faring trade and interaction from Mesopotamia, Iran, Indus Valley and beyond will be considered. It is possible that this class will take a site trip to the UAE during the spring break, if the logistics can be arranged. Instructors: Professors Holly Pittman (Penn), Peter Magee (Bryn Mawr College).
Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 522
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 525 Topics in Greek and Roman Art
Topics Varies. Fall 2018: “Roman Provincial Art” is a very active scholarly category: we test how it might be productive, sampling visual culture outside the empire’s Italian heartland from the Late Republic into Late Antiquity. Rome’s arts were always in dialogue with those of neighboring cultures; imperialist expansion into the Mediterranean world and beyond meant that cultural relations across many boundaries—social, ethnic, territorial—potentially became cultural politics. Of related interest are relationships between visual and material culture within the Roman world’s formal boundaries, in proto-global and imperial contexts, and those of peoples along and beyond those frontiers. (In Late Antiquity some of them took up rule within the old imperial boundaries, and came to cultural terms with their new lands.) “Style” is a fraught issue: what does attributed crudeness in regional practice add up to, and what were the aims of apparently trans-Mediterranean forms of display? Do “arts” engage identity formation, enforced or discrepant viewing? To analyze relations between the empire’s local and “international” visual cultures’s is to critique models of Romanization, center-periphery and network interaction, cultural fusion, translation and hybridity, creole and subaltern studies. It is also a glimpse, often, into the economies and production of art and artifacts as consumable goods, and the social and cultural phenomenon of taste.
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 525, CLST 521
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 529 Topics in Roman Architecture
Topic varies. Spring 2018: This seminar offers a critical assessment of digital Roman architecture studies. What has been accomplished and learned over the last generation since the Digital Turn, and where is the field of Roman architecture being taken? Points of focus include several landmark case studies, such as digital reconstructions of the city of ancient Rome, and threatened cultural heritage sites in Syria. The course will involve readings of significant texts, in class discussions and presentations lead by the seminar’s participants, and testing and critiquing of a limited set of digital tools.
Taught by: Stinson
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 529
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 532 Topics in Byzantine Art
Topic varies.
Taught by: Drpic
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 530
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 540 Topics in Medieval Art
Topic varies. Spring 2019: Between the medieval metropolitan capitals of Constantinople and Paris lay the dynamic connecting sea -- the Mediterranean. This course begins by looking in depth at the birth and development of those two key capital cities, and their competitive interactions. Urban centers around the Mediterranean littoral contributed significantly to the networks linking and provisioning those two key metropoli: Venice, Palermo, Tunis, Sijilmasa, Acre, Cairo and Cordoba. This seminar will examine the urban fabric and the objects produced in an array of Mediterranean cities thriving in the Middle Ages, revealing the unexpected ways that they were connected by the sea. This seminar is limited to graduate students only, and permission must be sought from the instructors before enrollment.
Taught by: Guerin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 540, AFRC 538
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 550 Topics in Southern Renaissance Art
Topic varies. Spring 2019: This course explores the art of composition in two respects: first, composition as the arrangement of words and sentences into prose; second, composition as the organization of visual elements into a painting. Through the writings of key Renaissance writers, we will explore such issues as the mythical origins of the portrait, the role of precious materials in art, the relationship between figure and ground, and the mechanics of describing a painting into words. Some knowledge of a Romance language (Italian, French, Spanish, or Portuguese) helpful though by no means required.
Taught by: Kim, Staff
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 552 High Renaissance
Topic varies. Spring 2019: “appropriate” landscape and ultimately better understand the history of the garden’s art. The seminar will address changing tastes in garden design in Early Modern Europe but will also extend our study further into the past, beyond Europe and forward to the present day. The seminar will introduce themes in garden design and examples from garden history and, in the process, the course will ask the participants to consider different cultural visions of the “beautiful” or “appropriate” landscape and ultimately better understand the history of the gardener’s art.
Taught by: Pastore
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 561 Topics in Northern Renaissance
Topic varies. Spring 2017: This seminar will focus on the history and interpretation of Dutch and Flemish painting, particularly the seeming “realism” of landscape, still-life, and genre scenes as well as some of the major figures of the period for their distinctive contributions (including Rubens and Rembrandt, but not dominated by them): Jan Brueghel, Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Jacob van Ruisdael, David Teniers, Jan Vermeer, and others. Who were the consumers of such works? How did the burgeoning market for inexpensive art in the form of paintings on canvas and prints affect production and types of art? How can we understand these works in their original urban, middle-class setting? Prerequisites: at least Art History 102 and its equivalent; non-majors should seek instructor approval. Requirements: short analysis paper of work on view at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (5-7 pages); full-scale term paper, requiring library research.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 578
Prerequisite: ARTH 102
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 565 Topics in Northern Baroque Art
Topic varies. Fall 2015: Built around an exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, focused on the “Prometheus” by Peter Paul Rubens, this seminar will investigate the range of painted and sculpted works on Greco-Roman myths in European art and will also investigate the career of Peter Paul Rubens, particularly concerning myths. Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 571 Modern Architectural Theory
A survey of architectural theory from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. The discussion of original writings will be emphasized.
Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CPLN 572
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 579 Topics in American Art
Topic varies from semester to semester. In Fall 2019, this seminar will treat the United States as a case study for in-depth examination of the conditions and operations from which a mass visual culture emerged. Our focus will be on the period from 1830 to 1860, when the infrastructure, labor force, institutions, and audiences took shape and when paradigmatic examples of exceptionally successful works were developed. We will compare our empirical findings with some of the influential theories of mass culture developed by Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno, Janice Radway, Lauren Berlant, Stuart Hall, and others. Our investigations will excavate the foundations of the image-saturated culture we experience in the 21st century. The development of a mass visual culture was among the epochal changes in the 19th century that made the United States a modernized nation. This involved the industrialization of picture production and the formation of markets large enough to consume print editions in the tens or hundreds of thousands. Despite the fragmentation of the population and the initial absence of an artistic infrastructure, the U. S. proved a fertile ground for mass art. The country rapidly became an innovative locus for advances in the commodification of pictures and in their instrumentalization for purposes of marketing, political persuasion, the circulation of information, education, and entertainment.

Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 580 The Sexuality of Postmodern Art
This course is fundamentally concerned with why so many of the defining artists of the postwar generation were queer, indeed such that one could plausibly claim that postmodernism in American art was a queer innovation. Centrally, most of these artists raise the problem, as the above quotes underscore, of authoriality and its discontents. Deploying a combination of social-historical and theoretical texts, we will approach the problem of the disclaiming of authoriality in post war American art, focusing on the works of John Cage, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, Cy Twombly, Robert Indiana, Louise Nevelson, Ellsworth Kelly, Agnes Martin, Leon Polk Smith and not least Andy Warhol. Central to this course will be the continuing salience of the "death of the author" discourse, pioneered in literature by Barthes and Foucault, and in art by every one of the artists we will be examining. What, in short, is the relationship between the rise of an anti-biographical, anti-authorial theoretical framework, and the lived histories of so many queer authors? In asking this question, we are of course self-consciously violating the very premise of one key strand of postmodernist critique—and in so doing attempting to historicize a theoretical frame that is strikingly resistant to historical analysis. (Undergraduates interested in the course should contact Professor Katz.)

Taught by: Katz
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 578
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 582 Modern and Contemporary Design
This seminar will provide a brief overview of the history of modern and contemporary design, from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution to today, and engage students in the hands-on analysis of objects through the collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the consideration of the presentation of objects in museums, and the discussion of several important contemporary topics in the study of material culture.

Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 585 Topics in 19th Century Art
Topic Varies. Spring 2015: Birthplace of the nation, industrial metropolis-Philadelphia is the definitive American "place." This seminar will explore the visual history of the city as a symbolic site described and defined by painters, printmakers and photographers as well as politicians and capitalists and most importantly, its residents. How and why were certain sites selected and exploited within an evolving civic iconography? How did Philadelphia's visual culture influence approaches to placemaking? And how did artists navigate the increasingly complex political and social as well as aesthetic conflicts between myth and reality?

Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 586 Topics in 20th Century Art
Topic varies.

Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 589 Topics in Cinema and Media
Spring 2016: Taking its title from a recent special issue in the journal Framework, this seminar will engage the where of film and media theory. At a moment when this discourse, often presumed to have roots in Anglo and Western European traditions, is purportedly undergoing a global turn, we will consider how some of film and media theory's key terms and preoccupations including realism, documentary, genre, identity, sound, spectatorship, nation, auteurs, and screens are being inflected by expanded geographic, linguistic, aesthetic and cultural frames. We will grapple with some of the logistical challenges, motivations, resistances, and questions that scholars encounter as they attempt to shift film and media theory's borders; compare contemporary efforts to broaden the discourse's geographic horizon with earlier efforts to do the same; and consider what happens to the viewer's sense of space and place in different media environments. Course requirements: full participation in readings, screenings, discussion, and class presentations; 20-25 page research paper + annotated bibliography. Permission of instructor required for advanced undergraduates.

Taught by: Redrobe
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 590, COML 599, ENGL 593
Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor for Undergraduates.
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 596 Topics in Contemporary Art
Topic varies. Spring 2018: An experimental class for artists and scholars. Organized around a series of case studies of artists, collectives, infrastructures, and curatorial projects, the course includes: in-class discussion and viewing; workshops with class visitors; site visits; participation in small reading groups. In the first half of the class, students will complete some short assignments. In addition, students will complete a final project that is intentionally open in terms of form. The project, which can be collective or individual in nature, will enable an in-depth material investigation of one of the threads of the class. Taught by: Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 596, ENGL 596, FNAR 605, GSWS 596
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 612 Cities and Temples in Ancient India
The wooden architecture of ancient India's cities is represented in relief carvings from Buddhist religious monuments of the early centuries A.D. and replicated in remarkable excavated cave cathedrals. This course will trace that architectural tradition, its transformation into a symbolic vocabulary for a new structure, the Hindu temple, and the development of the temple in India from ca. 500-1500 A.D. Taught by: Meister
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 212, SAST 201, SAST 501
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 613 Arts of Japan
This course introduces the major artistic traditions of Japan, from the Neolithic period to the present, and teaches the fundamental methods of the discipline of art history. Special attention will be given to the places of Shinto, the impact of Buddhism, and their related architectures and sculptures; the principles of narrative illustration; the changing roles of aristocratic, monastic, shogunal and merchant patronage; the formation of the concept of the artist over time; and the transformation of tradition in the modern age. Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 213, EALC 157, EALC 557
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 614 Arts of China
The goals of this course are to introduce the major artistic traditions of China, from the Neolithic period to the present and to teach the fundamental methods of the discipline of art history. Our approaches will be chronological, considering how the arts developed in and through history, and thematic, discussing how art and architecture were used for philosophical, religious and material ends. Topics of study will include: Shang bronzes: Han concepts of the afterlife; the impact of Buddhism; patronage and painting; the landscape tradition; the concept of the literatus; architecture and garden design; the "modern" and 20th-century artistic practices; among others. Taught by: Steinhardt, Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 214, EALC 127, EALC 527
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 617 Chinese Painting
Study of Chinese painting and practice from the earliest pictorial representation through the late twentieth century. Painting style forms the basis of analysis, and themes such as landscape and narrative are considered with regard to larger social and cultural issues. The class pays particular attention to the construction of the concepts of the "artist" and "art criticism" and their impact on the field into the present. Visits to look at paintings at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, PMA and/or local collections. Taught by: Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 217, EALC 227, EALC 627
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 622 Art of Mesopotamia
A survey of the art of Mesopotamia from 4000 B.C. through the conquest of Alexander the Great. Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 624, ARTH 222
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 624 Art of Ancient Iran
This course offers a survey of ancient Iranian art and culture from the painted pottery cultures of the Neolithic era to the monuments of the Persian Empire. Particular emphasis is placed on the Early Bronze Age. Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 624, ARTH 224
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 625 Greek Art and Artifact
This course surveys Greek art and artifacts from Sicily to the Black Sea from the 10th century BCE to the 2nd century BCE, including the age of Alexander and the Hellenistic Kingdoms. Public sculpture and painting on and around grand buildings and gardens, domestic luxury arts of jewelry, cups and vases, mosaic floors, and cult artefacts are discussed. Also considered are the ways in which heroic epic, religious and political themes are used to engaged viewers' emotions and served both domestic and the public aims. We discuss the relationships of images and things to space and structure, along with ideas of invention and progress, and the role of monuments, makers and patrons in Greek society. Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 625, ARTH 225, CLST 220
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTh 626 Hellenistic and Roman Art and Artifacts
This course surveys the political, religious and domestic arts, patronage and display in Rome's Mediterranean, from the 2nd c. BCE to Constantine's 4th-c. Christianized empire. Our subjects are images and decorated objects in their cultural, political and socio-economic contexts (painting, mosaic, sculpture, luxury and mass-produced arts in many media). We start with the Hellenistic cosmopolitan culture of the Greek kingdoms and their neighbors, and late Etruscan and Republican Italy; next we map Imperial Roman art as developed around the capital city Rome, as well as in the provinces of the vast empire.
Taught by: Kuttner
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 626, ARTH 226, CLST 221
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTh 632 Byzantine Art and Architecture
This course offers a wide-ranging introduction to the art, architecture, and material culture of Byzantium— a Christian, predominantly Greek-speaking civilization that flourished in the Eastern Mediterranean for over a thousand years. Positioned between the Muslim East and the Latin West, Antiquity and the Early Modern era, Byzantium nurtured a vibrant and highly sophisticated artistic culture. With emphasis placed upon paradigmatic objects and monuments, we will examine an array of artistic media, from mosaic and panel painting to metalwork, ivory carving, book illumination, and embroidery. We will consider the making, consumption, and reception of Byzantine art in a variety of contexts: political, devotional, ritual, and domestic. Topics include the idea of empire and its visual articulation; court culture; the veneration of images and relics; patronage, piety, and self-representation; authorship and artistic agency; materiality and the sensory experience of art; the reception of the pagan Greco-Roman past; and the changing nature of Byzantium’s interactions with neighboring cultures.
Taught by: Drpic
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AAMW 632, ARTH 232
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTh 633 Eastern Medieval Architecture
This lecture course examines major architectural developments in the eastern Mediterranean between the 4th and 14th centuries CE. The focus is on the Byzantine Empire, with its capital at Constantinople. Lectures also devoted to related developments in the Caucasus (Armenia and Georgia), early Russia, the Balkans (Bulgaria and Serbia), Sicily and under the Normans, the Crusader states. Parallel developments in early Islamic architecture are used for comparative purposes. The course examines evidence for religious and secular buildings, as well as urbanism and settlement patterns.
Taught by: Ousterhout
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 633, ARTH 233
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTh 635 Introduction to Visual Culture of the Islamic World
A one-semester survey of Islamic art and architecture which examines visual culture as it functions within the larger sphere of Islamic culture in general. Particular attention will be given to relationships between visual culture and literature, using specific case studies, sites or objects which may be related to various branches of Islamic literature, including historical, didactic, philosophical writings, poetry and religious texts. All primary sources are available in English translation.
Taught by: Holod
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 635, ARTH 235, NELC 285, NELC 685, VLST 235
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTh 640 Medieval Art
An introductory survey, this course investigates painting, sculpture, and the "minor arts" of the Middle Ages. Students become familiar with selected major monuments of the Late Antique, Byzantine, Carolingian, Romanesque, and Gothic periods, as well as primary textual sources. Analysis of works emphasizes the cultural context, the thematic content, and the function of objects. Discussions focus especially on several key themes: the aesthetic status of art and the theological role of images; the revival of classical models and visual modes; social rituals such as pilgrimage and crusading; the cult of the Virgin and the status of women in art; and, more generally, the ideology of visual culture across the political and urban landscapes.
Taught by: Guerin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 640, ARTH 240
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTh 650 Michelangelo and the Art of the Italian Renaissance
An introduction to the work of the Renaissance artist Michelangelo (1475-1564)-his sculptures, paintings, architecture, poetry, and artistic theory-in relation to his patrons, predecessors, and contemporaries, above all Leonardo and Raphael. Topics include artistic creativity and license, religious devotion, the revival of antiquity, observation of nature, art as problem-solving, the public reception and function of artworks, debates about style, artistic rivalry, and traveling artists. Rather than taking the form of a survey, this course selects works as paradigmatic case studies, and will analyze contemporary attitudes toward art of this period through study of primary sources.
Taught by: Kim
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 250
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 654 Global Renaissance and Baroque
An introduction to transcultural encounters within and beyond early modern Europe, 1450-1600. Topics include: the theory and historiography of global art; artistic relations between Venice, the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, and islands in the Eastern Mediterranean; Portugal's overseas mercantile network in Africa and Asia; and the Baroque in Latin America, with emphasis upon Brazil. Our discussions focus on these paradigmatic case studies so as to question the language and terms we use to characterize confrontations between native and foreign, the self and the other. Taught by: Kim
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 254
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 658 Early Modern Japanese Art and the City of Edo
Study of the major art forms and architecture of Tokugawa (or Edo) period (1603-1868). In this course, we will consider how the arts of this era occur within an increasingly urban and modern culture, particularly with regard to the city of Edo. Issues of the articulation of authority in the built environment, the reinvention of classical styles, and patronage will be raised. May include some visits to PMA, Penn Museum, or other local collections. Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 258, EALC 150, EALC 550
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 661 Northern Renaissance Art
Survey of the principal developments in Northern Europe during the "early modern" period, i.e. the transition from medieval to modern art-making during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Principal attention to painting and graphics with additional consideration of developments in sculpture, particularly in the regions of the Netherlands and German-speaking Europe. Attention focused on the works of the following artists: Van Eyck, Bosch, Durer, Holbein, Bruegel, and on topics such as the rise of pictorial genres, urban art markets, Reformation art and art for the dynastic courts of emerging nation-states. Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 261
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 662 Netherlandish Art
Dutch and Flemish painting in the 15th and 16th centuries with special emphasis on the contributions of Robert Campin, Jan van Eyck and Roger van der Weyden, Bosch, and Bruegel. Taught by: Shaw, Staff
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 262, DTCH 261
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 667 Latin American Art
The numerous traditions of Latin American art have been formed from the historical confluence of Indigenous, European, African, and Asian cultural traditions, each one impacting the others. This course serves as an introduction to these hybrid New World art forms and movements by both providing a large chronological sweep (1492-present) and focusing on several specific countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Peru, and Argentina. Taught by: Shaw, Kim
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 267, LALS 267, LALS 667
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 670 The Modern City
A study of the European and American city in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Emphasis is placed on the history of architecture and urban design; political, sociological, and economic factors also receive attention. The class considers the development of London, St. Petersburg, Washington, Boston, Paris, Vienna and Philadelphia. Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 270, URBS 276
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 671 Modern Architecture, 1700-1900
The history of western architecture, ca. 1700-1900, when architecture was transformed to serve a world that had been reshaped by political and industrial revolutions. Topics to be considered include the Rococo, the English Garden, Palladianism, Romanticism, neo-classicism, the picturesque, the Greek and Gothic Revivals, and the search for a new style. Taught by: Brownlee
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 271
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 674 Facing America
This course explores the visual history of race in the United States as both self-fashioning and cultural mythology by examining the ways that conceptions of Native American, Latino, and Asian identity, alongside ideas of Blackness and Whiteness, have combined to create the various cultural ideologies of class, gender, and sexuality that remain evident in historical visual and material culture. We also investigate the ways that these creations have subsequently helped to launch new visual entertainments, including museum spectacles, blackface minstrelsy, and early film, from the colonial period through the 1940s. Taught by: Shaw, Staff
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 294, ARTH 274, ASAM 294, CIMS 293, LALS 274
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 676 Impressionism
Impressionism opened the pictorial field to light, perception, science, modernity, bourgeois leisure and famously the material qualities of paint itself. This course will survey the movement's major contexts and proponents—Manet, Monet, Morisot, Cezanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Rodin—from its origins in the 1860's to its demise in the 1890's, as well as its subsequent adaptations throughout the world until World War I. Particular attention is paid to the artists' critical reception and the historical conditions which allowed one nation, France, to claim the emergence of early Modernism so firmly for itself. The course also analyzes the effects of the rapidly changing social and cultural fabric of Paris, and its affects on artistic developments. We also look outside of France's borders to Germany and Britain.
Taught by: Dombrowski
One-term course offered every term
Also Offered As: ARTH 276
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 677 The Rise of Modernity: Arts of the 19th Century
The nineteenth century is often considered as fast-paced, politically volatile and new-media obsessed as our own age. This course explores the nineteenth century's claim to have produced the first truly modern culture, focusing on the visual arts and metropolitan spaces of Europe and North America in their intellectual and social contexts. Stretching from the American and French Revolutions to the eve of World War I, topics to be covered include: the rise of capitalist and industrialist culture, art and revolutionary upheaval, global travel and empire, the origins of modernist art and architecture, and new media such as stereoscopes, iron and glass construction, and photography. Major artistic personalities of the age, from Jacques-Louis David and Gustave Courbet to Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh, and from Friedrich Schinkel and, Baron Haussmann to Frank Furness and Frank Lloyd Wright, are discussed. Each lecture will be followed by a brief period of discussion, and regular field trips take students to examine art and architecture first hand, in the museums and on the streets of Philadelphia.
Taught by: Brownlee, Dombrowski
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 277
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 678 American Art
This course surveys the most important and interesting art produced in the United States (or by American artists living abroad) up through the 1950s. This period encompasses the history of both early and modern art in the U.S., from its first appearances to its rise to prominence and institutionalization. While tracking this history, the course examines art's relation to historical processes of modernization (industrialization, the development of transportation and communications, the spread of corporate organization in business, urbanization, technological development, the rise of mass media and mass markets, etc.) and to the economic polarization, social fragmentation, political conflict, and the cultural changes these developments entailed. In these circumstances, art is drawn simultaneously toward truth and fraud, realism and artifice, science and spirituality, commodification and ephemerality, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, individualism and collectivity, the past and the future, professionalization and popularity, celebrating modern life and criticizing it.
Taught by: Leja, Shaw
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 278
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 681 Modern Architecture,1900-Present
The architecture of Europe and America from the late nineteenth century until the present is the central subject of this course, but some time is also devoted to Latin American and Asian architecture and to the important issues of modern city planning. Topics discussed include the Arts and Crafts movement, Art Nouveau, Expressionism, Art Deco, the International Style, and Post-modernism. The debate over the role of technology in modern life and art, the search for a universal language of architectural communication, and the insistent demand that architecture serve human society are themes that are traced throughout the course. Among the important figures to be considered are Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, Robert Venturi, and Denise Scott Brown. The course includes weekly discussion sessions and several excursions to view architecture in Philadelphia.
Taught by: Brownlee
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 281
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 685 Modern Art
The history of modern art is closely tied to and largely unfolds from the history of Western Imperialism. While the technologies made possible by colonial resource extraction produced new ways of looking, modern conceptions of the self and how to represent it developed in dialogue with racialized notions of the other. This course focuses on encounters between the cultures of Africa and Europe, from 1880 to 1960, and on the visual practices that emerged on both continents as a result. Topics of special interest will include racial difference and the birth of photography, colonial masquerade, impressionism, symbols of power in royal arts, cubism, mass marketing and colonial self-fashioning, West African studio photography, world's fairs and the Musee de l'Homme, Dada and surrealism, Negritude and interwar Paris, anti-aesthetics, colonial arts education, National art schools in the age of African independence, humanism and South African photography under Apartheid.
Taught by: Roach
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 283, ARTH 285
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 686 Modern Art: Picasso to Pollock
Early twentieth-century art in Europe is marked by a number of exciting transformations. This period witnessed the rise of abstraction in painting and sculpture, as well as the inventions of collage, photomontage, constructed sculpture, the ready made and found object, and performance art. Encounters with the arts of Africa, Oceania and other traditions unfamiliar in the West spurred innovations in media, technique, and subject matter. Artists began to respond to the challenge of photography, to organize themselves into movements, and in some cases, to challenge the norms of art through "anti-art." A new gallery system replaced traditional forms of exhibiting and selling art, and artists took on new roles as publicists, manifesto writers, and exhibition organizers. This course examines these developments, with attention to formal innovations as well as cultural and political contexts. This course requires permission from the instructor.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 286
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 690 Post War Japanese Cinema
Mizoguchi Kenji, Ozu Yasujiro, and Kurosawa Akira are recognized today as three of the most important and influential directors in Japanese cinema. In their films of the late 1940s and 1950s, these directors focused upon issues surrounding the human condition and the perception of truth, history, beauty, death, and other issues of the postwar period. This course places their films in period context, and pays particular attention to the connections to other visual media, and to how "art" and "history" are being defined in the cinematic context. How other directors also took up these issues, and referred to the "big three" is also be discussed.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 290, CIMS 223, EALC 156, EALC 556
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 694 Art Now
One of the most striking features of today's art world is the conspicuous place occupied in it by the photographic image. Large-scale color photographs and time-based installations in projections are everywhere. Looking back, we can see that much of the art making of the past 60 years has also been defined by this medium, regardless of the form it takes. Photographic images have inspired countless paintings, appeared in combines and installations, morphed into sculptures, drawings and performances, and served both as the object and the vehicle of institutional critique. They are also an increasingly important exhibition site: where most of us go to see earthworks, happenings and body-art. This course is a three-part exploration of our photographic present.
Taught by: Silverman
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: ARTH 294, ENGL 063, GSWS 294, VLST 236
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 695 Cinema and Media
This course will provide an introduction to some of the most important film theory debates, and allow us to explore how writers and filmmakers from different countries and historical periods have attempted to make sense of the changing phenomenon known as "cinema," to think cinematically. Topics under consideration may include: spectatorship, authorship, the apparatus, sound, editing, realism, race, gender and sexuality, stardom, the culture industry, the nation and decolonization, what counts as film theory and what counts as cinema, and the challenges of considering film theory in a global context, including the challenge of working across languages. There will be no screenings for this course. No knowledge of film theory is presumed. Course requirements: attendance at lecture and participation in lecture and section discussions; canvas postings; 1 in-class midterm; 1 take-home final.
Taught by: Redrobe
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 295, CIMS 305, COML 299, ENGL 305, GSWS 295
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 696 Contemporary Art
Many people experience the art of our time as bewildering, shocking, too ordinary (my kid could do that), too intellectual (elitist), or simply not as art. Yet what makes this art engaging is that it raises the question of what art is or can be, employs a range of new materials and technologies, and addresses previously excluded audiences. It invades non-art spaces, blurs the boundaries between text and image, document and performance, asks questions about institutional frames (the museum, gallery, and art journal), and generates new forms of criticism. Much of the "canon" of what counts as important is still in flux, especially for the last twenty years. And the stage is no longer centered only on the United States and Europe, but is becoming increasingly global. The course will introduce students to the major movements and artists of the post-war period, with emphasis on social and historical context, critical debates, new media, and the changing role of the spectator/participant.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 296
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 701 Proseminar in Methods in the History of Art
Spring 2019: This course introduces theories and methods of the history of art and architecture, as well as classical archaeology, that have played a major role in the formation of these disciplines from the later eighteenth century to the present day. Classical archaeology is usually said to begin as art history with J.J. Winckelmann (1717-68) and the course will map the intellectual geographies of these disciplines. Our aim will be to shed light on the epistemological underpinning of Winckelmann’s History of Art of Antiquity, the shakeout of subsequent understandings of historical processes but foremost to consider other approaches. The seminar will give a broad overview of theories and methods in relation to relevant developments in other disciplines, such as philosophy, aesthetics, history, and anthropology. Topics include antiquarianism, idealism, formalism, iconography and iconology, semiotics, technologies of vision and the period eye, theories of space and place, gender and sexuality studies, the social history of art, and neuroaesthetics among others. Readings include key texts by major art and architecture theorists and historians and tackle approaches that range from early connoisseurship and the Frankfurt and Vienna Schools to recent questions of “affect” and discourses of eco-aesthetics.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 701
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 711 Topics in Indian Art
Topic varies. Fall 2017: We will examine the practice and symbolism of South Asian Architecture with case studies of how to build and how to make buildings meaningful.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SAST 711
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 714 Topics in East Asian Art
Curatorial Seminar Spring 2015: This course will be offered in association with the exhibition, Representing Place: Landscape and Imagination in Modern Japanese Prints, to be held at the Arthur Ross Gallery in spring 2015. The seminar proposes to expand our discussion of landscape as a larger theme in the visual arts, with examples drawn from Europe, America, East Asia, and other locations. We will further consider how some sites became known as famous places, and how that act is tied up to issues of local, regional and national identity and often implicated in the promotion of specific places. This course will feature the opportunity to study works in the PMA collection, travel to “famous sites” around Philadelphia, and participate in the final preparations and installation of the exhibition.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 720 Topics in Aegean Art
Topic varies. Fall 2018: The choices made by groups of people with regard to the treatment of their dead can be reflective of a society’s beliefs and social structure. In this course, we will examine the burial traditions of the people of the Prehistoric Aegean from the Neolithic through the end of the Bronze Age, circa 7,000-1,100 BCE. We will focus on burial architecture, grave goods, burial rituals, mortuary variability, and the symbolic meaning of death and burial in Prehistoric Greece. Particular attention will be paid to recent discoveries on Crete, the Mainland, and the Cycladic islands. Students will write two papers, and these papers will be presented to the class. The first paper will be circa 15 pages long with footnotes, bibliography, and images (presented via powerpoint) and the second will be a 20-25 page paper with footnotes, bibliography, and images presented via powerpoint.
Taught by: Shank
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 720, CLST 720
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 722 Topics in the Art of Ancient Iran
Topic varies.
Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 723 Topics in the Art of the Ancient Near East
Topic varies. Fall 2019: During the short period of the Neo Sumerian Empire at the end of the third millennium BCE, Mesopotamian concepts of kingship were crystallized through images, buildings, and textual creations. This seminar will examine this central institution from many points of view that invite cross historical and cross-cultural consideration.
Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 723, NELC 740
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 724 Seminar in Ancient Near Eastern Art
Topic varies.
Taught by: Pittman
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 732 Topics in Byzantine Art and Architecture
Topic varies. Spring 2018: The recent “return” to the object across the humanities and social sciences has brought to the fore concerns with the nature of material things, their operation in the world, and their entanglement with humans. This seminar will introduce you to some of the key theoretical writings on the object and material culture and will ask you to interrogate their relevance for the discipline of art history. Our focus will be on the Middle Ages, but depending on the specific interests of the seminar’s participants, we may venture into other historical periods and cultural domains. Topics to be addressed include the social life of things; agency; materiality; the relic; the gift; the miniature; and the question of the human/nonhuman divide.
Taught by: Drpic
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 732
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 735 Topics in Islamic Art
Topic varies.
Taught by: Holod
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 737 Islamic Architecture
This seminar will address the problems of studying architecture in the Islamic world. Considered will be issues of architectural design, regional and trans-regional constructional traditions, structural know-how and innovation, patronage and use. The examples discussed will be mainly religious and social service complexes. Attention will be paid to the manner of transmission of architectural design knowledge and constructional skill.
Taught by: Holod
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AAMW 738, NELC 731
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 750 Topics in Southern Renaissance Art
Topic varies. Fall 2018: This innovative course will explore the cross-fertilization between manuscript illumination and other media such as wall-painting, panel painting, architecture, sculpture, and stained glass across the early modern world, 1300-1600. We will consider such topics as: intermediality, artistic transfer, miniature vs. monumental, workshop practice, patronage, and the nascent art market. Students will have the rare opportunity to see and handle manuscripts held in area collections such as the Kislak Center and the Free Library of Philadelphia. This course is open to all students who are interested in artistic practice, the historical dimensions of media, and the social function of art. Our seminar will be coordinated with the Annual Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies (November 15-17, 2018), which will bring together an international group of experts in the field.
Taught by: Kim
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 641
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 751 Topics in Baroque Art
Topic varies. Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: DTCH 662
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 765 Topics in Northern Baroque Art
Topic varies. This seminar will consider major themes in Northern art of the 16th and 17th centuries, essentially from Bruegel to Vermeer. The premise is that the Reformation altered certainties in knowledge and even in perception, especially in the wake of wars, newly discovered lands, changing science and collecting of Wonders. Among new imagery topics would include: melancholy, vanitas, witchcraft, travel images, and the status of the emblem as well as allegory. Students will select a topic for semester-long investigation and co-present a class with the instructor. No prerequisites; graduate students only.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: DTCH 665
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
ARTH 771 Topics in 19th Century Architecture
Topic varies. Fall 2017: This seminar will explore the exhilarating architectural environment of the period ca. 1750-1900, when a fierce appetite for artistic invention was let loose in kitchen filled with new knowledge about the entire history of human architecture. Focusing on French, German, and English architecture, the seminar will examine major texts and study important monuments, all considered in their cultural and political contexts. Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 775 Topics in 19th Century European Art
Topic varies. Spring 2019: This graduate seminar considers the concepts of time active in the rise of modern painting in the 19th century, from historical time, leisure time and perceptual time to labor and mechanical time. Too rarely has the history of time and time-keeping, from the industrialization of time to the advent of universal time been used as a tool in the study of modernist painting (as opposed to say the moving image) except perhaps in terms of chronology. To that end, we will think through, as aesthetic categories, the concept of the moment, the instant, the impression, the now, the shock, and also seriality and narrative sequence, and consider painting’s oft-cited competition with the camera’s evolving shutter speeds. More broadly, we will discuss the various times implied by new media and new artistic materials. Focusing on the century’s changing institutions of art (from the world’s fair to the independent exhibition), we will consider new demands placed on the time of viewing and active concentration. Finally, we will analyze art’s place within the century’s often rapid historic changes, such as revolutionary upheavals or shifting political regimes. Artists to be studied include Turner, Manet, Monet, Degas, and Menzel, among others, whose work stretches the decades, roughly, between 1830 and 1900. Beside the key art historical literature, we will read extensively in both the cultural history of time and perception (Kern, Galison, Koselleck, Crary) and the aesthetic philosophy of time from Lessing to Deleuze (including Nietzsche, Blanqui, Bergson, Durkheim, Benjamin, and Kubler, among others).
Taught by: Dombrowski
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 781 Topics in 20th Century Architecture
Topic varies. For the Fall 2019 semester, this research seminar will be devoted to the writing, architecture, and city planning of two of the most important designers of recent history. Full use will be made of their papers in the Penn architectural Archives. Open to graduate students only.
Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 786 Topics in 20th Century Art
Topic varies.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 786, ITAL 685
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 788 Topics in 20th Century American Art
Topic varies.
Taught by: Leja, Shaw
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 793 Topics in Cinema and Media
Topic varies
Taught by: Beckman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 793
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARTH 794 Topics in Contemporary Art
Topic varies. Fall 2019: “When industry erupts in the sphere of art,” Baudelaire famously wrote in 1859, “it becomes the latter’s mortal enemy, and in the resulting confusion of functions none is well carried out...If photography is allowed to deputize for art in some of art’s activities, it will not be long before it has supplanted or corrupted art altogether...Photography must, therefore, return to its true duty, which is handmaid of the arts and sciences.” History has not been kind to this argument. First, Henry Fox Talbot and many of his contemporaries attributed the photographic image to nature, not industry, and the same is true of a number of contemporary artists. Second, by 1842–three years after the official invention of photography—photographers had already begun hand-coloring their daguerreotypes, and a century and a half later Richter started smearing and spattering paint onto small photographs, and exhibiting them along with his abstract and figurative paintings. By the mid-1850’s, many artists were also painting from photographs, sometimes by projecting them onto their canvases, and treating these projections as preparatory drawings. They called the resulting images photo-paintings. And although it became increasingly “disreputable” to work in this way as the century progressed, Eugene Delacroix, Gustave Courbet, Edouard Manet, Henri Fantin-Latour, Edgar Degas and Edouard Vuillard all made paintings that are in one way or another photographic. Some of them also saw photography as the gateway to a new kind of figurative painting. Abstraction hardened the distinction between art and photography, and brought these medium-crossings to an end, but photo-painting resurfaced in the 1950s and 1960s, and although it initially seemed ironic, it has outlived the movements that made this reading possible. As we can now see, it is a far more complex and multi-faceted way of making pictures than those generally associated with Pop, Institutional Critique and Appropriation—one in which the world participates, and from which we have much to learn. We will explore work by Gerhard Richter, Richard Hamilton, Corinne Wasmuth, Luc Tuymans, Marlene Dumas, and others.
Taught by: Silverman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 787, ENGL 793
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit