

HISTORY OF ART, BA

The Major in the History of Art seeks to deepen students' knowledge of artistic production and practice over the scope of human history, as well as to broaden awareness of the critical and interpretive aims of the discipline itself. Students develop skills in the analysis of works of art, sharpen their understanding of the social, cultural, and personal values embodied by works, and explore the relation of art history to other disciplines. The Department particularly encourages a broad geographic understanding of art production and encourages students to consider the relations and distinctions among different visual cultures.

Students are strongly advised to make an appointment each semester to discuss their progress through the major with the undergraduate chair. Majors are also encouraged to achieve an advanced level of French, German, or other languages as relevant to their subject interests. During their senior year majors may pursue independent research by writing an honors thesis and are invited to become regular participants in the department colloquium series.

The minimum total course units (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/credits-needed-major/>) for graduation in this major is 33. Double majors may entail more course units.

For more information: <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/arhistory/undergraduate/major> (<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/arhistory/undergraduate/major/>)

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/>) page.

Code	Title	Course Units
College General Education Requirements and Free Electives		
Foundational Approaches + Sectors + Free Electives		20
Major Requirements		
<i>General Surveys</i>		
Select 2 course units of the following:		2
Attribute AHAS - ARTH Survey (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahas/)		
ARTH 1010	World Art Before 1400	
ARTH 1020	Renaissance to the Present	
ARTH 1030	Art and Civilization in East Asia	
ARTH 1040	Art of Global Asia	
ARTH 1060	Architect and History	
ARTH 1100	What is Modern Art?	
ARTH 1500	Eye, Mind, and Image	
ARTH 1800	The Sexuality of Modern Art	
<i>Methods Seminar</i>		
ARTH 3000	Undergraduate Methods Seminar	1
<i>Seminars</i>		
Select 2 course units of any 3000 or 5000-Level Seminar		2
<i>Chronological Distribution</i>		
Select one 2000-level or higher course from each time period ¹		3
Ancient (Attribute AHAA - ARTH Ancient) (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahaa/)		

Medieval/Renaissance (Attribute AHAR - Medieval/Renaissance) (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahar/>)

Modern (Attribute AHAM - ARTH Modern) (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/aham/>)

Geographic Distribution Areas

Select 1 course unit of Islamic, South Asian, East Asian, African, Native American, Oceanic Geographic Area course at 2000-level or higher² 1

Geographic Non-Western (Attribute AHAG - ARTH Geographic Non-Western) (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahag/>)

Additional Courses in History of Art

Select 4 course units of Electives 4

Elective (Attribute AHAE - ARTH Elective Major/Minor) (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/ahae/>)

Total Course Units 33

¹ Double counting between geographic and chronological requirements is not allowed.

² Courses numbered 2000-level or higher, one course from these four fields: Islamic, South Asian, East Asian, Latin American, African/Oceanic, or others as available (with the exception of ARTH 1040: Art of Global Asia, that can also count for this requirement).

Honors

Application for Honors is by petition. Please consult with the Undergraduate Chair.

Code	Title	Course Units
ARTH 4980	Senior Thesis (First Semester)	1
ARTH 4980	Senior Thesis (Second Semester)	1
Total Course Units		2

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.