

Art History major and minor curriculum

The Art Department is proposing a revision to the major and minor programs in art history. This proposal includes the following items:

I. Summary of Proposed Changes

- a. Comparison table of proposed changes in the structure of the art history major
- b. Comparison table of proposed changes in the structure of the art history minor
- c. Description and Rationale for the proposed structural changes
- d. Transition Plan Between Current and New Curricula
- e. Staffing implications
- f. Revise course descriptions to reflect current pedagogical approaches and conversion of special topics
- g. New course
- h. Summary of Required Courses in Current Curriculum and Required Courses in Proposed Curriculum
- i. Proposed Four Year Course Cycle for Required Courses

a. Comparison table of proposed changes in the structure of the Art History major

Current Art History major (9 courses)

- ARH 101: Introduction to art history I—survey of Western art prehistoric to Gothic
- ARH 102: Introduction to art history II—survey of Western art Renaissance to contemporary
- CUE Methods of Art history
- Writing Intensive Course in art history
- Five additional courses in art history (with one ARS course option)

Proposed art history major (9 courses)

- ARH101: Art Histories: An Introduction
- ARH102: History of Western Art **OR** ARH103: Art of the Americas **OR** ARH104: Art of Africa **OR** ARH105: Art of Asia
- CUE Methods of Art History
- Writing Intensive Course in Art History
- Five additional courses in art history (with one ARS course option)

b. Comparison table of proposed changes in the structure of the Art History minor

Current art history minor (5 courses)

- Introduction to Art History I **OR** Introduction to Art History II
- 1 writing intensive course in Art History
- 3 additional courses in Art History or Studio Art (maximum 1 ARS)

Proposed art history minor (5 courses)

- ARH101: Art Histories: An Introduction
- 1 writing intensive course in Art History
- 3 additional courses in Art History or Studio Art (maximum 1 ARS)

c. Description and rationale for proposed structural changes

Our current course courses in art history—ARH101 and ARH102 are “traditional” art history surveys that focus exclusively on the Western canon. The way the curriculum is designed, students could graduate with majors or minors in art history having never learned about art made outside of Europe and North America. This privileging suggests that Western art and culture is superior to the traditions outside of the West. While we have expanded our non-Western offerings in specialized and upper level courses, by maintaining purely Western introductory level courses we have not done the work to topple white supremacist ways of knowing and present to our students a truly inclusive history of art.

With the proposed changes all students will be required to take the ARH101 course, which is global in scope. They can then choose a second 100-level course that will include surveys of the arts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

d. Transition Plan between Current and New Curricula

We plan to roll out the new curricula in the Fall of 2023. We can “grandfather in” students who already took the previous versions of 101 and 102.

e. Staffing implications

The new curriculum should not majorly change anything in regards to staffing needs, as both Dr. Elena FitzPatrick Sifford and Dr. Margo Hobbs can cover most of the necessary courses. The only issue we see is the ability to offer ARH105: The Arts of Asia. We have not previously offered this course as we have not had anyone to teach it. It is important, however, that we offer a course in this area every few years in order to make our curriculum inclusive. We would need an instructor for this course possibly every four semesters.

Art history has typically offered one course covered by an adjunct per academic year. This has allowed us to offer popular courses outside of our research areas, like a course on curating taught by the former director of the Allentown art museum. Continuing this arrangement or similar would also allow us to offer a course like ARH105: Survey of Asian Art. These courses have been key for giving majors enough options to complete the major, since there are only two art historians at the College. We therefore would not be hiring any additional adjuncts on top of current department practice.

Having a course on Asian art is crucial for a globalized art history curriculum that is inclusive of as many identities and experiences as possible. The course is sure to draw students from across the College, including Asian students eager to take courses related to their cultural heritage. Additionally it could count towards the Asian Studies minor.

f. Revised course descriptions and conversion of Special Topics to regular courses to reflect current pedagogical approaches

New Title and Description— ARH102: Introduction to Western Art

A survey of the major works of architecture, painting, and sculpture of Western Civilization from the prehistoric period to the modern era. Elements of style and the relationship of the work of art to its historical era are stressed. Meets general academic requirement HU.

Original Course: ARH102 Introduction to Art History II

A survey of the major works of architecture, painting, and sculpture of Western civilization from the Renaissance to the modern era. Elements of style and the relationship of the work of art to its historical era are stressed.

f. Revise course description (continued)

New Course – ARH104: Introduction to the Art of Africa [formerly Special Topic ARH 285]

A survey of the major works of art and architecture in Africa from the earliest civilizations to the modern era. Elements of style and the relationship of the work of art to its historical era are stressed. Meets general academic requirement HU.

f. Revise course descriptions to reflect current pedagogical approaches (continued)

NB: ARH103: history of Modern Architecture will become ARH203: Modern Architecture

g. New courses

New Course – ARH101 Art Histories: An Introduction

This lecture course introduces students to art history as a global and interdisciplinary field. Students will develop the looking skills and visual vocabulary to think and write about art from critical and analytical perspectives. The course will be organized chronologically around a set of themes. Particular attention will be paid to examining art history as a discipline and developing skills to look critically at works of art from various world cultures and their interpretations. Meets general academic requirement HU.

Original course: ARH 101 Introduction to Art History

A survey of the major works of architecture, painting, and sculpture of Western Civilization from the prehistoric period to the Late Middle Ages. Elements of style and the relationship of the work of art to its historical era are stressed.

New Course – ARH103: Introduction to Art of the Americas [was Special Topic ARH 183]

A survey of the major works of art and architecture in the Americas from the earliest civilizations to the modern era. Elements of style and the relationship of the work of art to its historical era are stressed. Meets general academic requirement HU.

To be developed – ARH105: Introduction to the Art of Asia

A survey of the major works of art and architecture in Asia from the earliest civilizations to the modern era. Elements of style and the relationship of the work of art to its historical era are stressed.

h. Summary of Required Courses in Current Curriculum and Required Courses in Proposed Curriculum

Required Courses in Current Curriculum

ARH 101 Introduction to Art History

ARH102 Introduction to Art History II

CUE Methods of Art History

Required Courses in Proposed Curriculum

ARH101 Art Histories: An Introduction

ARH102 Introduction to Western Art

OR

ARH103: Introduction to Art of the Americas

OR

ARH104: Introduction to Art of Africa

OR

ARH105: Introduction to Art of Asia

CUE Methods of Art History

