ART HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE

Mission Statement

The Department of Art History and Visual Culture's mission places questions of difference and power globally at the center of our teaching and research. Our mission reflects Denison's core liberal arts values and advances inclusion and equity. We employ a thematic, interrogative approach that reflects critically on what art history and visual culture can be for the liberal arts. We do not seek broad, superficial coverage, but collaborative partnership in reimagining art history and visual culture studies for an integrative, transformative liberal arts experience. In so doing we exploit our areas of faculty specialization as spaces from which to rethink dominant narratives and interpretive frameworks with their global implications. We rethink, too, how we respond in writing to that which is not primarily articulated through the spoken or written word. Emphasizing global issues of difference and power prompts the curation of intentional interdisciplinarity inside and outside the college, as concrete expressions of our mission.

We strongly urge students to declare their intention to major in Art History and Visual Culture before the end of their sophomore year. We also urge students to choose an academic advisor from among AHVC faculty.

Associate Professor Catherine Stuer, Chair

Associate Professor Karl Sandin; Assistant Professor Julia Fernandez

Visual Resource Specialist
Jacqueline Pelasky

Academic Administrative Assistant
Dyan Couden

View faculty profiles and contact information (https://denison.edu/academics/art-history-visual-culture/contacts/)

Art History and Visual Culture Major

1. Requirements for Art History and Visual Culture Major:
   a. 10 four-credit courses,
   b. 1 one-credit course (AHVC 409 - Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Writing),
   c. Presenting a Junior Talk,
   d. completion of Senior Thesis (25-30 pages) and Presentation of Senior Thesis at the Annual Senior Symposium (AHVC 408 - Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Research). The Senior Thesis must be submitted to the Art History and Visual Culture faculty in order to graduate.
2. Required Core Courses Include: One 100-level, 4-credit course of student's choice:

Code	Title
AHVC 101	The Western World: Ancient to Baroque
AHVC 131	Asian Art and Visual Culture
AHVC 141	Latin American Art and Visual Culture

3. Three Required Core Courses for Juniors/Seniors:

Code	Title
AHVC 380	Methods of Art History and Visual Culture (this course to be taken in the junior year - 4 credits)
AHVC 408	Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Research (this course to be taken in the senior year - 4 credits)
AHVC 409	Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Writing (1 credit)

Elective Courses & Distribution Requirements

Seven courses from the following 4-credit, 200- and 300-level options. At least 3 of the 7 courses must be at the 300 level (this requirement is apart from that for AHVC 380, listed above). You must take at least 1 course in each of the areas listed below (Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Art in the Mediterranean and Europe; Pre-modern to Modern and Contemporary Art from China, Japan, and South Asia; Modern and Contemporary Art from Latin American and the U.S.) at either the 200 or 300 level.

The sole 100-level course you take (at top of list, above) may also be used to satisfy one of the areas in this distribution, in lieu of one of the 200- or 300-level elective courses listed below.

Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Art in the Mediterranean and Europe

Code	Title
AHVC 201	Classical Art and Architecture
AHVC 203	Early Renaissance Art and Architecture
AHVC 204	High Renaissance and Baroque Art & Architecture
AHVC 302	Medieval Art and Architecture

Pre-modern to Modern and Contemporary Art from China, Japan, and South Asia

Code	Title
AHVC 231	Art of Japan
AHVC 232	Art of China
AHVC 263	World Views: Spatial Imagination in East Asia
AHVC 333	Art and Revolution in 20th Century China

Modern and Contemporary Art from Latin American and the U.S.

Code	Title
AHVC 213	Women Artists in the Movement
AHVC 214	Decolonizing the Museum
AHVC 226	Mexican Art Across Borders
AHVC 310	History of Radical Printmaking

Note well: no more than two courses taken at institutions other than Denison (including off-campus programs) can count toward the AHVC major or minor. We encourage students to take these courses from 2 of the areas listed above, or from others in consultation with your advisor.

We urge students to consult the 'Criteria for Transfer Credit in AHVC' sheet available in the AHVC office, and to work with your advisor and the current

program chair before going off campus, in order to insure successful transfer of courses back to Denison for AHVC major credit. The current program chair must approve any transfer course for AHVC major credit before students go off-campus, or immediately after if needed because of changes in course of study or other factors.

Art History and Visual Culture Minor

A minimum of six courses in Art History and Visual Culture of the student's choice.

Additional Points of Interest

Students in Art History and Visual Culture learn writing skills that are integral to the discipline and the liberal arts. Working closely with faculty, students learn to translate visual observation and evaluation into written language; articulate questions for research; communicate the results of their research discoveries in writing; and develop an informed, critical, and independent written voice. Our courses emphasize the sequential, graduated development of writing skills. These culminate in our required senior thesis and symposium.

Art History and Visual Culture seniors also make a formal presentation of their research to an invited audience at the AHVC Junior-Senior Symposium. All juniors in Art History and Visual Culture also are required to make a formal presentation of current work or research. The presentation is made to the faculty and to the student's peers as part of the AHVC Symposium annually.

Denison University works to make study abroad possible for all students. In Art History and Visual Culture, we encourage students to study abroad during their junior year. Most students who major in Art History and Visual Culture and study off-campus transfer up to two classes for the major, satisfy GE requirements, and/or gain general credits towards graduation. Quite a few students also do independent research or internships as part of their study abroad experience. We encourage students to visit the Center for Global Programs/Off-Campus Study office to explore their options.

Courses

AHVC 096 - Senior Symposium (0 Credit Hours)
Senior Symposium in Art History and Visual Culture.

AHVC 101 - The Western World: Ancient to Baroque (4 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to selected themes, periods, and sites of visual production and built practice in Europe, the Mediterranean, and the New World. It focuses on a selected series of 'case studies' that integrate sites/monuments significant to the flow of Western art with period-specific and general critical issues. The relation of systems of visual and architectural representation to period-specific and current understandings of power, ritual, colonialism, transculturation, and the human body, as suggested through the disciplines of Art History and Visual Culture, will be key. Medieval and early modern developments will be emphasized.

AHVC 111 - Late 19th-21st Century Art and Visual Culture (4 Credit Hours)
A survey of major art movements from the later nineteenth century to the contemporary era.

AHVC 131 - Asian Art and Visual Culture (4 Credit Hours)
An introduction to the art and visual culture of India, China, Japan and Southeast Asia focusing on historical, religious and social issues and the function of both art and visual culture.
Crosslisting: EAST 131.

AHVC 141 - Latin American Art and Visual Culture (4 Credit Hours)
This introductory course examines the diverse arts and visual culture of Latin American countries, from Colonial times through the present, via a social art historical perspective. As we move through the history of Latin American art, we will center underrepresented narratives to explore key issues such as history making, uneven development, nation building, decolonization, and transnationalism. Students in the course will learn about the social, political, and historical contexts of Latin American art and become familiar with key theoretical concepts regarding representation and aesthetic practice. Objects and practices of study will include codices, casta paintings, printmaking, muralism, public art, and performance. This course will be broken into four thematic unit sections: (1) Indigenous Ideologies, European Conquest, and Contested Visions; (2) Struggles for Independence and Redefining National Art; (3) Revolutions and Avant-Garde Art; and (4) Contemporary Social Movements and Socially Engaged Art.

AHVC 199 - Introductory Topics in Art (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

AHVC 201 - Classical Art and Architecture (4 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to the art and architecture of Greece and Rome. Visual and spatial practices of religion and politics will be examined, focusing on Classical Athens and on Rome during the Late Republic and Early Empire. Selected works of art and architecture, and specific urban and exurban sites will be considered. Issues surrounding 'classical' forms and their subsequent role in Western art and architecture will be investigated.

AHVC 203 - Early Renaissance Art and Architecture (4 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to the visual culture, architecture, and selected patterns of urban development in Italy during the Early Renaissance and the Quattrocento. Focus will be on developments in Siena, Rome, and especially Florence. Issues surrounding 'classicism' and the development of new representational systems, new scales and materials in sculpture, new spatial and structural forms in architecture, and new relations to urbanism and centers of power and global expansion will be explored. Of particular interest are dynamics of difference and identity such as political pressures after the Black Death, patriarchy in family and church, women's resistance, and European slavery before 1492.

AHVC 204 - High Renaissance and Baroque Art & Architecture (4 Credit Hours)
This course provides an introduction to the visual culture, architecture, and selected patterns of urban development Rome during the High Renaissance, Mannerism, and the Baroque era through the papacy of Alexander VII (1655-67). Developments from ca. 1450 on in Rome leading to Julius II and the Roman High Renaissance will be a focus. Consideration of Mannerism, the Council of Trent and early Baroque visual and architectural forms (later 16th century) will lead to a second focus on 17th century visual and spatial practices in Counter-Reformation Rome. A third focus will be Iberian and Italian colonial practices, transculturation, and the hegemony of Counter-Reformation visual culture and urbanism under the Habsburgs and beyond.

AHVC 210 - Special Topics in Ancient Medieval, and Early Modern Art in the Mediterranean and Europe (4 Credit Hours)
Special topic courses with a focus on particular aspects of Art History and Visual Culture.

AHVC 213 - Women Artists in the Movement (4 Credit Hours)
The course will analyze artworks by Latina and Latin American women artists that address power inequalities within the intersections of class, gender, and race. There will be a focus on the often-overlooked role of Latina and Latin American women artists in political, social, and cultural movements. Students will be expected to think critically about feminist theories, particularly intersectional feminism, while visually and socially analyzing various works of art made by Latina and Latin American women in both Latin America and the U.S.

AHVC 214 - Decolonizing the Museum (4 Credit Hours)
This course critically analyzes the history of Western museums and their impacts on contemporary museum practices in the U.S. via a decolonial lens. Our goal is to examine the impact of the history and legacy of colonization on museums, so we can delink museum practices from Western hierarchies and systems of power. Throughout the course, students will interrogate the purpose of early versions of exhibition spaces, why museums were created, and how knowledge was produced. They will interpret museum architecture and how this may impact a museum's identity and ideas of inclusivity and exclusivity. They will examine how objects were collected to be part of museums' collections, who was impacted by these practices, and how collection practices have evolved or come to terms with difficult histories. They will analyze the layout of different types of museums and learn how exhibitions are put together while analyzing issues of hierarchy, representation, and biases. We will especially examine collections and exhibitions that attempt to center underrepresented communities in the U.S., including black, indigenous, and people of color.

AHVC 220 - Special Topics in Modern Art History (4 Credit Hours)
Special topic courses with a focus on particular aspects of Art History and Visual Culture.

AHVC 226 - Mexican Art Across Borders (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines the transnational history and exchanges of modern and contemporary Mexican and Mexican-American artists in the United States. Students will be introduced to critical events that have shaped the history and culture of Greater Mexico (such as the Mexican-American War and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848) before delving into the relationship between art and social movements, focusing on the post- revolutionary moment in Mexico (1910-1940) and the Chicano Civil Rights Movement (El Movimiento) in the United States (1960s-1990s). The class engages students in an in-depth analysis of works of art in diverse media and relates these to the social and historical conditions of their production. It challenges canonical accounts of Mexican modernism by broadening the traditional field of inquiry to consider mediums and artists traditionally regarded as "minor" and by offering a transnational approach to the art of Mexican-Americans in the United States.

AHVC 230 - Special Topics in Modern and Contemporary Art from Latin America and the U.S. (4 Credit Hours)
Special topic courses with a focus on particular aspects of Art History and Visual Culture.

AHVC 231 - Art of Japan (4 Credit Hours)
An introduction to Japanese architecture, sculpture, painting and the decorative arts from prehistoric times to the 20th century, with an emphasis on the works in their cultural and religious context.

AHVC 232 - Art of China (4 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to Chinese visual culture from prehistoric times through the Mao era. Organized around a selection of key objects and images, this course explores a variety of art forms from China through diverse contexts such as ritual, gender, imperial patronage, literati ideals, and political icons.
Crosslisting: EAST 232.

AHVC 240 - Special Topics in Art History and Visual Culture (4 Credit Hours)
Special topics in Art History and Visual Culture.

AHVC 260 - Special Topics in Pre-modern to Modern and Contemporary Art from China, Japan, and South Asia (4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 262 - Special Topics in Art History and Museum Studies (4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 263 - World Views: Spatial Imagination in East Asia (4 Credit Hours)
This course engages the question: 'How are images used to imagine our place in the world?' Students are invited to study fascinating practices of spatial image-making in East Asia from the inside out, by exploring these world-views from the perspective of their makers. You will be asked to pay special attention to how social and economic power structures inflect these representations: to envision and decode spatial imagery as a site of imagination, control and resistance. Artists and patrons in China, Japan, and Korea have for centuries produced elaborate maps and landscape imagery, photographs and film to imagine the world in a variety of ways. This course invites you to approach modern and contemporary representations of space in East Asia both in theoretically and historically informed ways. In the first part of the course, students build a frame of reference for their analysis of post-war case studies, by reading core texts in spatial theory, and exploring important visual representations of space from pre-modern East Asia. In the second part of the course, students apply these theoretical and historical approaches to select cases that exemplify more recent struggles over space and its imagination in East Asia.

AHVC 299 - Intermediate Topics in Art (1-4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 302 - Medieval Art and Architecture (4 Credit Hours)
This course is an advanced investigation of art and architectural developments in the Latin West during the medieval period and into the early modern period. Selective foci include western monastic art, building, and lay patronage in Spain, France, and Italy during the Romanesque through Gothic periods and beyond. The early urbanism of the communes of Italy are a focus, with their expansion of civil art and architecture through the fourteenth century, and rise of new religious orders.

AHVC 310 - History of Radical Printmaking (4 Credit Hours)
The course analyzes the creation, history, and continual legacy of radical printmaking via transnational and multiracial social movements. Therefore, the course takes a global art historical approach to the materials, analyzing the influence of transnational art and political networks. The course is influenced by postcolonial theory, transnationalism, and critical race theory. Through visual, textual, and social analysis via close readings, critical discussions, and a comprehensive research project, students will find connections, networks, and contact zones between distinct graphic art movements. Throughout the course, we will explore specific networks created among Mexican, Black, and Chicanx printmakers, but students will be encouraged to find similar transnational and multiracial solidarity movements among other printmakers.

AHVC 333 - Art and Revolution in 20th Century China (4 Credit Hours)
This advanced-level course examines the complicated relationship between art and politics in China through key debates and developments in Chinese visual culture during the 20th century. The class explores competing narratives that negotiate the tensions between "tradition and modernity," "East and West," "local and global" and their implications for revolutions in art. Particular attention will be paid to interrogating the ideological underpinnings of artistic mediums and formats, the historiographical stakes of modernity, and the assertion of cultural memory in art and text.
Crosslisting: EAST 333.

AHVC 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
For the student of marked creative ability who wishes to pursue advanced subjects not otherwise listed, such as design, drawing, graphics, ceramics or history and criticism.

AHVC 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
For the student of marked creative ability who wishes to pursue advanced subjects not otherwise listed, such as design, drawing, graphics, ceramics or history and criticism,

AHVC 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 380 - Methods of Art History and Visual Culture (4 Credit Hours)
This class is required for Art History and Visual Culture majors. This class is the first of the three-part capstone experience for the Art History and Visual Culture major. It introduces students to the theoretical and methodological platforms of Art History and Visual Culture and examines the historical development of the fields of both Art History and Visual Culture. It introduces students to the methods and theoretical approaches of practicing scholars in the field and asks students to formulate their own platforms, which they will translate into active research in the second and third capstone courses (AHVC 408 and AHVC 409).

AHVC 399 - Advanced Topics in Art (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

AHVC 408 - Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Research (4 Credit Hours)
In this required course, senior majors will research and prepare the senior thesis.

AHVC 409 - Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Writing (1 Credit Hour)
In this required course, senior majors will present their senior thesis during our annual senior symposium.

AHVC 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)