ART HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE

Departmental Guidelines
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. Requirements for Art History and Visual Culture Major: 10 four-credit courses, 1 one-credit course (AHVC 409 - Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Writing), participation in Junior Day, completion of the Senior Thesis (25-30 pages) and presentation of the Senior Thesis at the Annual Senior Symposium (AHVC 409 - Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Writing). The Senior Thesis must be submitted to the Art History and Visual Culture faculty in order to graduate.

Mission Statement
The Art History and Visual Culture program engages art and visual culture from global perspectives. We interrogate ways in which visual images and objects are powerful agents in society and can be used either to support or undermine the status quo, to frame our understanding of class, culture, politics, and society, and to create, conceal, or contest perceptions of reality, time, and space. We offer different perspectives on the study of visual culture around the globe, engage different fields of research and combine diverse teaching practices and experiences. Our classes look at artists, visual and material objects and environments from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe, and from ancient to contemporary times. We value listening to a multiplicity of voices and encourage students to make connections between different art practices and critical approaches, but also learn that these connections may not always be simple or direct. As a program, we pursue a richer, more critical, and global visual outlook on the discipline of art history and visual culture.

Students of art history and visual culture explore the agency of images and objects by thinking independently, critically, and creatively. They learn to analyze visual images, objects, and environments and their relations to specific historical and cultural contexts. Students learn to build compelling interpretative arguments about art and visual culture and present their ideas in effective ways and in a variety of settings. At the end four years, Art History and Visual Culture majors choose a unique research project, conduct serious research in primary and secondary materials, and apply relevant analytical methods and critical approaches to their study.

Associate Professor Karl Sandin; Chair.

Associate Professor Catherine Stuer, Assistant Professor Julia Fernandez

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. participation in Junior Day,
   d. completion of Senior Thesis (25-30 pages) and Presentation of Senior Thesis at the Annual Senior Symposium (AHVC 409 - Art History and Visual Culture Senior Seminar: Writing). 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHVC 101</td>
<td>The Western World: Ancient to Baroque</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 131</td>
<td>Asian Art and Visual Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 141</td>
<td>Latin American Art and Visual Culture</td>
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3. Three Required Core Courses for Juniors/Seniors:

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

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHVC 201</td>
<td>Classical Art and Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 203</td>
<td>Early Renaissance Art and Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 204</td>
<td>High Renaissance and Baroque Art &amp; Architecture</td>
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<td>AHVC 302</td>
<td>Medieval Art and Architecture</td>
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</table>
Pre-modern to Modern and Contemporary Art from China, Japan, and South Asia

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHVC 231</td>
<td>Art of Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 232</td>
<td>Art of China</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 263</td>
<td>World Views: Spatial Imagination in East Asia</td>
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<td>AHVC 333</td>
<td>Art and Revolution in 20th Century China</td>
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Modern and Contemporary Art from Latin American and the U.S.

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 310</td>
<td>History of Radical Printmaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHVC 213</td>
<td>Women Artists in the Movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHVC 240</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History and Visual Culture (Chicano/a/x Art)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHVC 240</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History and Visual Culture (Mexican Art Across Borders)</td>
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Courses in Latin American and U.S. Art will continue to develop. The most up-to-date checklist will be available in the department office.

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 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)

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, and the human body, as suggested through the disciplines of Art History and Visual Culture, will be key.

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 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 art, 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.
AHVC 204 - High Renaissance and Baroque Art & Architecture (4 Credit Hours)
This course provides an introduction to the art, 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 prime focus. Consideration of Mannerism, the Council of Trent and early Baroque visual and architectural forms (later 16th century) will lead to the second focus on 17th century visual and spatial practices in Counter-Reformation Rome and beyond.

AHVC 210 - Special Topics in Ancient Medieval, and Early Modern Art in the Mediterranean and Europe (4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 211 - Women Artists in the Movement (4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 212 - History of Radical Printmaking (4 Credit Hours)

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 220 - Special Topics in Modern Art History (4 Credit Hours)

AHVC 221 - 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)

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 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)