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.