Fall 2017
Courses in Art History

ARTH 282
Introduction to World Art
Multiple sections, see MyNIU
Profs. S. Bell, H. Nagata, M. Quinlan, A. van Dijk

An introduction to the ways in which human civilization has imagined itself and expressed its vision of the world over time and in different cultural contexts across the globe, this course also considers how these arts continue to be interpreted by contemporary scholars and audiences.

This course satisfies PLUS (Creativity and Critical Analysis) requirements and is included in the Origins and Influences Pathway. This course is required for all students in the School of Art and Design.

ARTH 292
Art and Design Since 1900
MWF 11-11:50
Profs. R. Houze, S. Evans

A wide-ranging survey of artworks and practices that have challenged the artistic status quo while responding to the diverse economic, political, and social contexts of the recent past and present.

This course satisfies PLUS (Creativity and Critical Analysis) requirements and is included in the Creativity, Innovation and Change Pathway. This course is required for all students in the School of Art and Design.

ARTH 310D/510D
Studies in Ancient and Middle Eastern Art: Archaic and Classical Art
M 6-8:40pm
Prof. S. Bell

What is “Classical” art? It is both art of the so-called Classical period of ancient Greek civilization and a style of art that has come to assume a highly influential, indeed canonical position in the history of Western civilization. This course will accomplish three aims for students enrolled: introduce the wider geographic, historical and cultural background of ancient Greek civilization in which the visual arts sit; familiarize one with the fundamental visual and architectural grammar of the Greek Classical period; and interrogate the legacy of the Greek Classical by investigating the various ends to which it has been put in the Early Modern and Modern periods, ends which have oftentimes been far removed from its original contexts and intents (e.g., Nazi Germany).

ARTH 310D satisfies PLUS (Society and Culture) requirements, is included in the Origins and Influences Pathway, and has been certified as “Writing Infused.” ARTH 510D by permit only.
ARTH 320D/520D

Studies in Medieval Art: Romanesque and Gothic Art

TuTh 11am-12:15pm  Prof. A. van Dijk

The flowering of art and architecture in Europe after the year 1000 is conventionally referred to using the terms “Romanesque” and “Gothic.” In this course we will address the origin, meaning and usefulness of these terms. We will consider the roles of pilgrimage, monasticism, and the papacy in shaping architecture during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the origin of the style called “Gothic” in the Île de France, the age of great cathedrals, the luxury arts -- both religious and secular -- and the spread of this style from France to other European centers.

ARTH 320D satisfies PLUS (Society and Culture) requirements and has been certified as “Writing Infused.” ARTH 520D by permit only.

ARTH 350C/550C

Studies in Contemporary Art: 1960-present

MW 3:30-4:45pm  Prof. S. Evans

Any artist works within an historically distinct and limited field of possibilities defined by the artworld—defined, that is, in the discourses of other artists, critics, theorists, historians, curators, dealers and collectors. Thus, study of the history of art is really a study of ideas about art. The era of contemporary art begins in the mid-1950s, when artists adopt Duchamp’s insight that art is conceptual, not visual.

This means that an artwork is not primarily a visually stimulating object; instead, it is a vehicle for investigation and communication. Rather than focus on individual artists or movements, this course covers significant discourses about the nature and goals of advanced art-practice in an era of increased institutionalization and commodification of art.

This course satisfies PLUS (Creativity and Critical Analysis) requirements, is included in the Creativity, Innovation and Change Pathway, and has been certified as “Writing Infused.” ARTH 550C by permit only.

ARTH 360B/560B

Studies in Design: Print Culture to New Media

MW 2-3:15pm  Prof. R. Houze

This course will examine topics in the history of graphic design, illustration, and new media from the nineteenth century to the present. Topics will include the relationship between fine art and design, the significance of history to the field of design, and the contextualization of visual communication within the more general fields of design and media studies. We will consider a number of theoretical approaches in texts by nineteenth and twentieth-century designers as well as by contemporary design critics and historians.

ARTH 360B satisfies PLUS (Society and Culture) requirements, is included in the Sustainability Pathway, and has been certified as “Writing Infused.” ARTH 560B by permit only.

ARTH 370C

Studies in Asian Art: South and Southeast Asian Art

W 6-8:40pm  TBA

The general objective of this course is to introduce you to the ancient culture of India and its influence in Southeast Asia through the lens of the arts. Organized around a chronological and thematic framework (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Animism, etc.), this course is a survey of the cultural contexts of visual arts traditions of the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

ARTH 370C satisfies PLUS (Society and Culture) requirements and has been certified as “Writing Infused.”
ARTH 370G/570G
Studies in Asian Art: Thematic Subjects
Nature in Japanese Art
TuTh 9:30-10:45am               Prof. H. Nagata

Studies in Asian Art treats the history, theory and criticism of various aspects of Asian art. This course will explore the cultural and philosophical nuances underlying nature imagery and the use of natural materials in Japanese art.

ARTH 370G satisfies PLUS (Society and Culture) requirements and has been certified as “Writing Infused.” ARTH 570G by permit only.

ARTH 451/651
Topics in Art History: Ancient and Middle Eastern Art
Post-Colonial Approaches to Visual and Material Culture
Tu 6-8:40pm                  Prof. S. Bell

This course looks at the ways in which empires have historically constructed systems of knowledge, especially through visual representations, in order to create, sustain and distribute the colonizer’s power over the colonized. Because many European hegemonic imperial powers looked to ancient civilizations, especially Greece and Rome, for justification for their projects of empire-building, we will be studying the history of colonialism and its post-colonial critique as one long continuum between the ancient past and (early) modern present. The course thus begins by looking at visual and material culture (e.g., photographs, postcards, cinema) from across early modern and modern contexts (especially Africa, India and Oceania), and then proceeds to look at its ancient Greco-Roman as well as Egyptian and Near Eastern visual antecedents. The aim of the course is to analyze not only the visual strategies by which colonizers colonized, but also the ways in which their gaze was answered by the subaltern.

ARTH 486/586
Art Historical Methodology
MW 2-3:15pm                  Prof. S. Evans

Ranging from the sixteenth-century to the present, this course will survey the variety of methods art historians and cultural theorists have developed in order to determine what are the proper objects of the discipline and how best to fashion a comprehensive history for these objects.

ARTH 486 is required for art history majors. ARTH 586 is required for the Certificate of Graduate Study in Art History.

ARTH 494
Art History Undergraduate Seminar
Images, Propaganda and Iconoclasms
Th 6-8:40pm                  Prof. M. Quinlan

This seminar explores the power of images as this depends on vision and visual psychology. The historical focus of the seminar is on the propaganda and iconoclasms of 16th-century Europe (the Protestant Reformation), and the lasting effects this has had on art into the 21st century. Students will develop an original research project centered on images, propaganda, and iconoclasms. Research topics from different centuries will be suggested.

This course is required for Art History majors. Pre-requisite: ARTH 486
COURSES TAKEN INDEPENDENTLY

Students must obtain permit from faculty supervisor.

ARTH 499H  Senior Thesis in Art History
ARTH 699A/699B  Art History Thesis/Master’s Research Project
ARTH 703  Independent Study in Art History

COURSES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

ARTH 282-00H1
Introduction to World Art
TuTh 2-3:15pm  Profs. S. Bell, A. van Dijk, H. Nagata, M. Quinlan

An introduction to the ways in which human civilization has imagined itself and expressed its vision of the world over time and in different cultural contexts across the globe, this course also considers how these arts continue to be interpreted by contemporary scholars and audiences.
This is an honors mini-section with a discussion section open to University Honors students only.

COURSES IN A THEMED LEARNING COMMUNITY

ARTH 292
Art and Design Since 1900
MWF 12-12:50pm  Profs. R. Houze, S. Evans

A wide-ranging survey of artworks and practices that have challenged the artistic status quo while responding to the diverse economic, political, and social contexts of the recent past and present.
Students in this section are participants in a Themed Learning Community and will also register for linked sections of ENGL 103 and UNIV 101 This course satisfies PLUS (Creativity and Critical Analysis) requirements and is included in the Creativity, Innovation and Change Pathway. This course is required for all students in the School of Art and Design.
Spring 2018 Courses
This list is preliminary and subject to change. Timetable and course description will be available in the fall.

ARTH 282 – Introduction to World Art
ARTH 292 – Art and Design Since 1900
ARTH 294 – Arts of Asia
ARTH 310B/510G – Studies in Ancient and Middle Eastern Art: Roman Imperial Art
ARTH 330C/530C – Studies in Early Modern European Art: 16th-Century Italian Art
ARTH 350C/550D – Studies in Contemporary Art: Global Moderns
ARTH 361/560D – History of Sustainability
ARTH 456/656 – Topics in Art History: The World’s Fair – Age of Expositions
ARTH 701 – Graduate Seminar: The Holy Image

COURSES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

ARTH 292H – Art and Design Since 1900