

Description of Courses

Art history courses

ARTH 120. Art, History, and Culture to 1300 (1). This chronological and thematic survey introduces art and visual culture from prehistoric times to c. 1400 C.E. Works of art and objects of visual culture are considered in depth, with close attention to social and historical contexts and through comparative cultural study. Slide lectures and discussions, extensive readings and field trips to Milwaukee and Chicago. (3B) *Offered each fall.*

ARTH 125. Art in Europe and the Americas Since 1300 (1). A continuation of Art History 120 focusing on art and architecture from the Renaissance to the present, this course emphasizes social, economic, and historical settings. Course includes slide lectures with discussion and field trips to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Madison. The Beloit College Wright Museum of Art is also used as a laboratory for close study of original works of art. *Offered each spring. Prerequisite: Art History 120 recommended.*

ARTH 130. Arts of Asia: Survey (1). This course provides a survey of the arts of Asia including India, Korea, China, and Japan. The material is arranged chronologically and covers the periods beginning with the Neolithic period and ending with the present. The course is organized around a series of questions as a way of highlighting the continuities and discontinuities of art produced in Asia. Through a study of the historical and religious contexts of works of architecture, sculpture, and painting, the course attempts to discover the themes that unify the artistic traditions of Asia and those that set them apart and covers topics including the development of images of the Buddha in India, landscape painting in China and Japan, and Japanese woodblock prints. (5T) *Offered every year.*

ARTH 211. Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture (1). *See Anthropology 256 for course description.*

ARTH 220. Arts of China (1). This course examines the arts of China from the Neolithic period through the 20th century. Different media are studied in the context of concurrent literature, politics, philosophies, and religions, as well as in the context of China's engagement with cultures beyond its borders. Broader topics include the artist's place in society, intellectual theories of the arts, and questions of patronage. *No previous exposure to Chinese art or culture is required.*

ARTH 231. History of Photography (1). This course addresses the evolution of the photographic image from its introduction in 1839 to the present. Within a loose chronological organization, broader themes and social and historical contexts are emphasized. The course also introduces critical approaches to photographs as art. A substantial portion is devoted to contemporary photographic activity. Field trips supplement regular class meetings.

ARTH 232. Greek Art and Archaeology (1). *See Classics 226 for course description.*

ARTH 233. Roman Art and Archaeology (1). *See Classics 227 for course description.*

ARTH 238. Topics in Greek and Roman Art (1). Study of selected topics in the arts and culture of ancient Greece and Rome c. 800 B.C.E. to 476 C.E. Topics in ancient art might be: representing the body in ancient Greece and Rome; women in ancient art; Augustan Rome. May be repeated for credit if topic is different. (Appropriate topics will be cross-listed with women's and gender studies.) *Prerequisite: Art History 120 or consent of instructor.*

ARTH 240. Art and Revolution: the Nineteenth Century (1). This course offers an introduction to the art and culture of 19th-century Europe and America. Through slide lectures and discussion of key works of art and visual culture, students study a lively, critical period in which the claims and priorities of Modernism emerged. Art historical scholarship, primary-source documents, literary works, and museum field trips aid in understanding such movements as Romanticism, Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism, among others. *Prerequisite: Art History 125 or consent of instructor.*

ARTH 245. Modernism and Postmodernism: Art Since 1900 (1). This course offers an introduction to developments in 20th- and 21st-century art. Within a loose chronological organization, broader themes are emphasized, social and historical contexts considered. Slide lectures and discussion are enriched with readings in critical and cultural theory and field trips to area art museums. *Offered each year.*

ARTH 250. The Visual Culture of Medieval Europe (1). Is medieval art “art”? Was the visual culture of the Middle Ages somehow fundamentally different from that of other times? How did medieval art work visually and culturally to create meaning? What functions and goals did this creation of meaning serve? Who was the audience for these images and ideas? This course considers these questions, among others, through examination of key moments, objects, and monuments in the visual culture of Europe from the third to the 14th centuries, the so-called medieval millennium.

ARTH 252. Art and Identity: Postcolonial Theory and Contemporary Native American Art (1). This course provides an introduction to a rich but often overlooked body of art being made today by a very diverse group of Native American artists. Drawing upon readings in postcolonial theory, the course considers how identity is inscribed. It also considers how Native artists working today engage multiple histories (Native and non-Native). The rich collections of the Logan Museum of Anthropology are utilized for historical, “artifactual” context, and as a springboard for discussion about representation and the politics of identity. But the primary focus is upon contemporary avant-garde art practices (i.e., artists making paintings, sculpture, videos, and installations, as well as fine art prints—of which the Wright Museum of Art has a growing collection), and thus offers a revealing perspective on some of the artistic and cultural preoccupations (and oversights) of Modernism and Postmodernism. *Offered occasionally. Open to first-year students.*

ARTH 285. Topics in the History of Art (1). Selected topics of focused interest or special importance in the history of art. May be repeated for credit if topic is different. *Offered each year.*

ARTH 335. Advanced Topics in the History of Art (1). Selected topics of focused interest or special importance in the history of art. May be repeated for credit if topic is different. *Offered each year. Prerequisite: junior standing and two 100-level art history courses, or junior standing and one 100-level and one 200-level art history course.*

ARTH 337. Art History: Theory and Methods (1). This seminar offers a historiography of the discipline of art history and an introduction to the methods of research used to analyze, interpret, and understand art and visual culture. Class sessions are devoted to the critical analysis of formalist, iconographic, feminist, Marxist, and semiotic approaches, among others. A significant portion of the course is dedicated to current art historical theory and practice. (5T) *Offered every year. Prerequisite: junior standing and two 100-level art history courses, or junior standing and one 100-level and one 200-level art history course.*

ARTH 390. Special Projects (¼ - 1). Individual work outside the scope of the regular course offerings of the art department. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing.*

ARTH 392. Honors Thesis in Art History (½, 1). The writing of a substantial paper based on an independent project. Qualified students may apply; departmental faculty will select a limited number of honors candidates each year. *Prerequisite: declared art history major, senior standing, and approved departmental honors application, recommendation of the department.*

ARTH 395. Teaching Assistant (½). *Graded credit/no credit. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.*

ARTH 396. Teaching Assistant Research (½).

ARTH 397. Research Assistant in Art History (¼ -1). Assistance to an art history faculty member in scholarly research. *Prerequisite: art history major; junior standing; B+ grade point average in art history courses; consent of instructor.*