 ART HISTORY
 &
 URBAN DESIGN AND
 ARCHITECTURE STUDIES

 Guidelines to the Majors
1. SIGNING UP FOR THE MAJOR

To sign up as an art history major you must come into the Art History Department, meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), and fill out our departmental paperwork. We will then set up a file for you and designate you as an art history major.

If you declare your major via CAS advisement or via the Liberal Studies Program (LSP) office, we will not receive the information and you will not be registered as an art history major. This may make it difficult for you to register for popular art history courses. We set aside a significant number of seats for majors, but if you do not register with us then the computer system will not know that you are eligible for one of these reserved seats.

2. GOALS OF THE MAJOR

The curriculum for the major is designed to provide students with a broad overview of art history, and with a deeper understanding of particular areas and periods within it.

3. BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE: WESTERN ART

To begin with, students are required to take two broad survey courses, History of Western Art I and II, which serve as prerequisites for all advanced courses in this area. The first of these surveys follows the development of Western art from Ancient Egypt through the Middle Ages; the second covers its development from the Renaissance through the modern era.

In theory, History of Western Art II may be replaced by the two-part sequence, Renaissance Art and Modern Art. Similarly, History of Western Art I may be replaced by the combination of Ancient Art and Medieval Art, although these two courses are not offered regularly every year. However, students should note that these more specialized surveys are intended for non-majors who wish to learn about the art of a particular era. (For instance, students in the Tisch School often want to take courses on modern art in order to supplement their courses on film and photography. To do so, they must first take the Modern survey, after which they can take more advanced courses.) Art history majors who are considering taking one of these more specialized surveys should note that:

(1) If you take a two-part sequence such as Renaissance Art and Modern Art, it will only count as one course toward the major (i.e. the equivalent of History of Western Art II).
If you by mistake take a broader survey followed by a narrower survey in the same area (for instance, History of Western Art I followed by Modern Art), the second course will be considered redundant and will not count for credit toward your major. For these reasons, majors and potential majors are strongly advised to take History of Western Art I and II rather than the more specialized surveys.

Students who took the Advanced Placement test in art history and earned a score of 5 are exempted from taking the introductory survey courses. (Scores of 4 or less do not count for credit toward the Art History major.)

An AP score of 5 should thus serve as the prerequisite for advanced courses in Western Art. In theory, this should be recognized by the Registrar but in practice the Department of Art History may need to send the Registrar a memo to insure that you receive appropriate credit for the AP. In the interim, in order to register for advanced courses, you may need to ask the administrative assistant for the Department to enroll you as a student in the courses you want to take, overriding the Albert registration system.

Students who have placed out of the introductory surveys by earning a score of 5 on the AP are required to take three rather than two electives (see Electives, below). This insures that you will have taken at least eight courses in the major. (The normal requirement is nine courses.)

4. BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE: NON-WESTERN ART

To increase their breadth of art historical knowledge, majors are also required to take at least one course in non-Western art. These courses are divided between introductory surveys and more advanced classes on specialized topics. Either type of course may satisfy the distribution requirement for non-Western. Note that non-Western courses do not, as a rule, have prerequisites, and may therefore be taken concurrently with (or in advance of) History of Western Art I and II.

5. DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE

Art history majors are required to take a minimum of one advanced course in either Ancient Art or Medieval Art. The prerequisite for advanced courses in these areas is History of Western Art I. (The Ancient Art survey may also serve as prerequisite for advanced courses in Ancient Art, as the Medieval Art survey may serve as prerequisite for advanced courses in this area.)
Majors are required to take at least one advanced course in Renaissance or Baroque art. The prerequisite for advanced courses in these areas is either History of Western Art II or the Renaissance Art survey.

Majors are required to take at least one advanced course in Modern Art. The prerequisite for advanced courses in this area is either History of Western Art II or the Modern Art survey.

In addition to advanced courses in these three areas, and to a course in non-Western art (see above, under “Breadth of Knowledge”), majors must take an additional two advanced courses (“electives”), in areas of their choosing. They must also take an advanced seminar (discussed at more length below). This brings the total of courses in the major up to nine (HWA I, HWA II, advanced Ancient or Medieval, advanced Renaissance or Baroque, advanced Modern, non-Western, two electives, plus the advanced seminar).

Please note that this total (9) represents merely the minimum number of courses necessary to complete the major. Students are encouraged to take more if possible. They are also encouraged to take courses in related areas—for instance history or Biblical literature (if you are interested in art before the modern era).

Note that the four specialized survey courses in Western Art—Ancient Art, Medieval Art, Renaissance Art, and Modern Art—may not be used to fill the requirements for advanced courses in these areas. In contrast, the survey courses in non-Western art—Islamic Art I and II, South Asian Art I and II, and East Asian Art I and II—are considered advanced courses, and may be used to fulfill the distribution requirement in non-Western art.

6. ELECTIVES

An elective is a course taken above and beyond the basic distribution requirements for the major. For instance, if a student takes a second advanced course in Renaissance art, after fulfilling the basic requirement for one advanced course in that area, the second course is counted as an elective. In this case, it is the timing of the course, not the subject matter that makes it an elective.

A few courses given in the department, such as History of Architecture, are always counted as electives, because they do not fit into the chronological divisions of the distribution requirements.

Similarly, some courses given outside the department count as electives within the major, but not as equivalents to the introductory surveys or to advanced courses. These non-departmental electives include the Core Curriculum class “Expressive Cultures: Images”
(if taken before declaring the art history major), the French Department’s course on La Belle Epoque, and the LSP two-part course Cultural Foundations. (Note that the two semesters of Cultural Foundations, together, count as one elective in art history.) These three courses may not be counted towards the four courses of the art history minor, however.

Other non-departmental courses may be counted as electives towards the major with the permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Please see the section below on “Study Abroad” for information about which courses given abroad count for advanced credit and which only for elective credit.

7. ADVANCED SEMINAR

It is a long-standing tradition of the art history department to encourage discussion in classes, so that students can exchange ideas with the professors and with one another. As a practical matter, however, discussions tend to happen more often in small classes on specialized topics than in large lecture classes on broader topics. To insure that art history students will enjoy the experience of intensive discussion in a small class, all majors are required to take an upper-level seminar, which will be limited to 12-14 students.

Approximately five seminars will be offered each semester on changing topics, so each student should have an opportunity to find a seminar suited to his or her special interests. The seminar may be taken during either the junior or senior year. It is required for completion of the art history major.

8. SENIOR HONORS THESES

Honors students—that is, students with a GPA of 3.65 or higher, both in their overall course work and within the major—are eligible to write a senior honors thesis as their capstone project. This is a long (approx. 40 page) research paper on an advanced topic, written in close consultation with a faculty advisor. The thesis should not be viewed simply as a step on the way to graduate school in art history. Writing a senior thesis provides valuable training in research, organization, and self-expression, skills that will be equally useful to students planning careers in journalism, law, business, medicine, or education.

Honors students interested in writing a senior thesis must find a faculty advisor at the beginning of spring semester of junior year. (As noted above, they may also wish to take their advanced seminar during their junior year, so that the research and writing required for seminar reports do not conflict with the research and writing for the thesis.) In consultation
with the advisor, they should refine a specific topic, which they may wish to begin researching over the summer between junior and senior years.

In the fall semester of their senior year, students writing theses work together in a special honors seminar on research methods and organization, while continuing to meet regularly with their faculty advisors. In the spring semester, thesis students register for a four credit Independent Study and meet frequently with their individual advisers, writing and revising the text over a period of months.

Please note that the fall honors seminar is not the same as—and does not replace—the advanced seminar required of all art history majors. (As mentioned above, honors students who plan to write a senior thesis may take the advanced seminar in their junior year.) Students doing a double major in art history and in another department should note that the honors seminar and the independent study for the senior thesis may both count as electives, filling the electives requirement. It is thus possible to write a senior thesis while taking no more than the basic nine courses required to complete the major.

The senior thesis must be completed three weeks before the end of classes in the spring semester. At that point, two more faculty members will be recruited to serve as readers, along with the student’s faculty advisor. The student will then meet with the three readers for a Thesis Defense, at the end of which the readers will meet separately to assign a grade of no honors, honors, high honors, or highest honors.

9. UNDERSTANDING COURSE NUMBERS

All art history courses have the heading ARTH-UA, taking the form ARTH-UA XXX. Ancient courses are ARTH-UA 1XX, Medieval courses are ARTH-UA 2XX, Renaissance courses are ARTH-UA 3XX, Modern courses are ARTH-UA 4XX and Non-Western courses are ARTH-UA 5XX. There are exceptions: many study-abroad courses are listed as ARTH-UA 9XXX and certain special topic courses are listed as ARTH-UA X50 section XXX. These courses, which do not appear in the University Bulletin, may cover such topics as urban design or non-western art, or they may simply represent a course designed by a faculty member to explore a special topic that does not fit within the usual categories.

Each semester, several weeks before registration, the department prepares a summary of all the courses that will be offered in the following semester, explaining which courses—whether regular or special topic—will satisfy which requirements. This summary is
distributed to all art history majors via listserv. It is also available as a printed handout, which may be picked up by students in the departmental office at Silver 303.

Until recently, the Albert system did not recognize special topic courses (ARTH-UA X50 section XXX) as art history courses, and did not know how to classify them (as Ancient, Medieval, etc.). Despite their ARTH-UA heading, special topics courses were placed by Albert in the “general elective” section of your degree program. However, as part of the advisement procedure, we keep track of your courses internally and make sure they are credited correctly in our departmental files. Before you graduate, the departmental secretary will write a memo to the Registrar, instructing that office to put your special topic courses in the correct area, so that the system will recognize that you have fulfilled your distribution requirements. (We have recently renumbered the special topics courses so that most if not all of them should be correctly credited by Albert.)

10. INTERNSHIPS AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Art history students are encouraged to do internships at New York area museums and other non-profit institutions. Interning at galleries and auction houses is legal if it offers compensation of at least minimum wage. Majors who lack 2 credits in Art History and who wish to secure unpaid internships in art galleries or other for-profit art related organizations may instead apply for an independent study (2 credits maximum) subject to adviser approval. It should be noted that approval is granted on a case-by-case basis; it is not guaranteed. Independent studies typically require the completion of a 20-page paper. Students must also provide the professor with a letter from their supervisor at work, confirming their participation and performance.
11. URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE STUDIES

The art history department also offers an alternative major in Urban Design and Architecture Studies. The two basic courses for this major are: “History of Architecture from Antiquity to the Present” and “Shaping the Urban Environment.” These are prerequisites for advanced courses on architecture (such as “European Architecture of the Renaissance”) and urban design (such as “Decision Making and Urban Design”). The primary goal of Urban Design and Architecture Studies is to foster a deeper understanding of cities and architecture. Many of the courses are taught by working professionals, and the major can help prepare students for professional careers in city planning, architecture, real estate, and allied fields. In addition to the two prerequisite courses, majors are required to take six advanced courses and an upper-level seminar. Urban Design and Architecture Studies courses are offered both in New York and at NYU Abroad campuses in London, Paris, and other cities.

12. STUDY ABROAD

NYU encourages all students to spend a semester abroad, offering a valuable opportunity to examine at first hand the art and architecture of another culture. The NYU Abroad programs in Florence, Paris, Berlin, Madrid, and London typically offer several courses in art history and in urban design and architecture studies each semester; in other cities, the offerings in art and architectural history are more limited. Students can earn credit toward the major for 2 courses taken abroad or if a third course is taken (in a different location) then the student can earn major credit for 3 courses. Certain courses given abroad have the same titles and course numbers as courses given in New York; these typically count for advanced credit in Renaissance Art, Modern art, or Urban Design and Architecture Studies, depending on the course. Other courses have no New York equivalent; some of these count as advanced courses, others as electives – and a few carry no art history credit at all.

Students taking a semester abroad may also take courses at non-NYU institutions, such as the Sorbonne in Paris. These may be counted as advanced or elective courses, at the discretion of the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Please note that the NYU programs in Accra, Buenos Aires, Shanghai, and Prague offer substantially fewer courses that count toward the major in art history.

Before leaving for a semester abroad, all students must meet with a faculty advisor to discuss their choice of art history classes.
13. ADVISEMENT

Each semester, beginning two or three weeks before registration, it is imperative that students meet with a faculty advisor to discuss their plan of study, and to make sure that they are on the right track toward completing the major.

14. ART HISTORY MAJOR WITH A STUDIO ART MINOR

Students majoring in art history are eligible to take studio art as a minor. (This option is not available to students in other majors.) The minor consists of studio courses totaling 16 points, taken in the Steinhardt School of Education. Students must take at least one course in each of three areas: Drawing/Painting/Printmaking, Sculpture, and Media, plus additional electives sufficient to make up the total of 16 points. Note that many advanced Steinhardt courses carry only three points (rather than the four typical in the College of Arts and Sciences), although the introductory courses typically carry four. The studio minor may require either four or five courses, depending on the student's choice of classes. Students who wish to take this minor should contact Belkis Baez, the Undergraduate Student Adviser in Steinhardt, belkis.baez@nyu.edu. See also the detailed list of requirements and courses, below.

15. ART HISTORY AS A DOUBLE MAJOR OR A MINOR

Students often take art history as a double major, along with journalism, foreign languages, history, or other subjects. The relatively light number of required courses (nine) means that it is usually possible to complete the requirements for both majors within the normal eight semesters of college. However, it does require careful planning, and double majors should consult carefully with their advisors in both departments. In some cases, an art history course may be “double-counted” for credit both within the art history major and within the other major, but the college, as a rule, permits only one course to be double-counted.

Art history may also be taken as a minor in conjunction with another major. The minor consists, in principle, of any four courses offered by the department. However, the usual requirements for prerequisites remain in force. Thus, students wishing to take advanced courses in, for instance, Renaissance or Baroque art must first take either History of Western Art II or the Renaissance Art survey. They may then take three more advanced courses in their area of interest.
Art history courses taken in Steinhardt may not be double-counted for credit towards an art history minor. However, for Steinhardt students taking a minor in Art History, the two-part Steinhardt course “Art and Contemporary Culture” is the pre-requisite for advanced Renaissance, Baroque, and Modern courses. “Art and Contemporary Culture, Part 2,” alone, is the pre-requisite for advanced Modern courses.

16. TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students coming to the College from another university should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to determine how the courses they have already taken will be counted towards the art history major. If possible, please bring copies of the curricula or detailed course descriptions to this meeting.

Students coming to the College from the Liberal Studies Program should try to take the introductory surveys in art history as soon as possible—in some cases, while still in LSP. As noted above, the two semesters of “Cultural Foundations,” given in LSP count as one elective towards the art history major (but do not count for the art history minor).

For students coming to the College from the Steinhardt School of Education, the 2-part Steinhardt course, “Art and Contemporary Culture,” is equivalent to History of Western Art II. “Art and Contemporary Culture, Part 2,” alone, is equivalent to the Modern Art survey.

Students should be aware that the DUS will determine how your previous courses will be counted towards the major, but not how many points they will count for towards graduation at NYU. Decisions about credits are made by the Registrar’s office, not by the Art History Department.
Declaration of Major

- ART HISTORY
- URBAN DESIGN

Name

Net ID

Minor(s)

Expected Graduation Date

Spring
Fall

Year

Study Abroad Plans

Semester(s)

Year(s)

Site(s)

ABU DHABI
ACCRA
BERLIN
BUENOS AIRES
FLORENCE
LONDON
MADRID
PARIS
PRAGUE
SHANGHAI
SYDNEY
TEL AVIV

Date

Student Signature

Advisor Signature
# Declaration of Minor

## NYU DEPT OF ART HISTORY & URBAN DESIGN

**ART HISTORY**  
**URBAN DESIGN**

**Name**

**Net ID**

**Major(s)**

**Expected Graduation Date**  
- SPRING  
- FALL  
- Year

## Courses

Minimum of 4 courses required. Maximum of 2 abroad courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

**Date**

**Student Signature**

**Advisor Signature**
Major Requirements

ART HISTORY

Surveys

Must take History of Western Art I & II; or Ancient/Medieval & Renaissance/Modern surveys; or 5 on AP exam; or equivalent as determined by Director of Undergraduate Studies.

- **History of Western Art I**
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - EQUIVALENT COURSES/NOTES

- **OR**
  - *Ancient Survey*
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - EQUIVALENT COURSES/NOTES

  - *Medieval Survey*
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - EQUIVALENT COURSES/NOTES

- **History of Western Art II**
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - EQUIVALENT COURSES/NOTES

- **OR**
  - *Renaissance Survey*
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - EQUIVALENT COURSES/NOTES

  - *Modern Survey*
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - EQUIVALENT COURSES/NOTES

- **OR**
  - AP Art History (Score of 5 required)
  - EQUIVALENT COURSES/NOTES
  - "5 electives are then required"

Advanced Requirements

Must take at least 1 in each category. Seminars require at least 5 Art History courses previously taken. Any course taken beyond the requirement counts as an elective.

- **Ancient/Medieval**
  - ARTH-UA 100 - 200 courses
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - NOTES

- **Renaissance/Baroque**
  - ARTH-UA 300 courses
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - NOTES

- **Modern/Contemporary**
  - ARTH-UA 400 courses
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - NOTES

- **Non-Western**
  - ARTH-UA 500 courses
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - NOTES

- **Seminar**
  - ARTH-UA 800 courses
  - GRADE
  - SEMESTER
  - NOTES

Electives

Must take 2 electives. AP Exam students must take 3.

- COURSES
- GRADE
- SEMESTER
- NOTES
## Major Requirements

**URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE STUDIES**

36 credits required for program completion.

### Required Courses

Both surveys and 1 seminar required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Architecture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH-UA 601</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaping the Urban Environment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH-UA 661</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Elective Courses

Approval of program director required. Only 2 cross-listed courses are permitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits**

**NOTES**