

ART HISTORY

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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Joseph Manca

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DEGREES OFFERED: BA

The Department of Art History offers a wide range of courses in European, American, Asian, and Middle Eastern/Islamic art history with additional strengths in architectural history and film and media studies. The major in art history is structured to expose students to the chronological, geographical, and methodological breadth of the field of scholarship.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN ART HISTORY

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 14–15).

Students with a single major in Art History must complete 36 hours (12 courses) and double majors must complete 30 hours (10 courses) in art history. A total of six of the courses for double and single majors must be at the 300 level or above. Of these six courses, two courses must be in each of the following periods: Pre Modern, Early Modern, and Modern. Three of these six courses must also be in American/European, distributed over the three periods; one course in Asian from any period; and one course in the Middle East/Islamic from any period. Of the 12/10 courses for single and double majors, at least two courses must be seminars.

It is strongly recommended that majors in Art History acquire a proficiency in at least one foreign language.

In addition, Art History majors are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities provided by museum internships, study abroad programs, and travel fellowships.

TRANSFER CREDIT

With approval from the departmental undergraduate adviser, a maximum of four courses may be taken outside of the department and applied to the major as transfer credits or study abroad course credits. No Advanced Placement credits may be used to satisfy major requirements.

See also Transfer Credit in the Information for Undergraduate Students section (page 26–27).

HONORS PROGRAM IN ART HISTORY

Art History majors may apply in the spring semester of their junior year for acceptance into the Honors Program. Interested students, with an excellent academic record, must submit a thesis proposal and recommendation from their thesis adviser to a committee of art historians for review. If accepted, six credit hours

(included in the 36/30 hours for single and double majors) of directed research and writing would be taken the senior year to complete an honors thesis (HART 402/HART 403). Financial assistance is available for honor students to conduct research between their junior and senior years. In addition to a written thesis, honors students must make a presentation to the faculty and students of the department. Once the adviser and readers have evaluated the completed thesis, the art history faculty determine whether to award honors. Students who do not make satisfactory progress in the first term will not be allowed to continue. Students who miss the final thesis deadline (mid-spring semester of the senior year) will receive a grade and credit but no honors.

EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES, AND ARTS PROGRAMS AT RICE AND IN HOUSTON

Exhibitions and related activities organized by the Rice University Art Gallery (Kimberly Davenport, director) enrich the teaching program of the Department of Art History as well as the larger university and Houston community. The Department of Visual Arts mounts several art and photography exhibitions each year and sponsors Rice Cinema, a public alternative film program. Rice cinema is intimately connected with the curriculum both in film and media studies (HART) and in film and photography production (ARTV), and includes frequent guest lecturers, panel discussions, and media events.

The department enjoys an ongoing close relationship with local museums and galleries. The department offers opportunities for students to work and study with local museums, galleries, and alternative art spaces by way of internship courses (HART 400, HART 401, HART 500, HART 501), summer internship working opportunities, fellowships, or collaborative events. The collections and special exhibitions of local museums are often the subject of course lectures.

Lectures, symposia, and talks are sponsored the department. These events are designed to bring local, national, and international scholars, critics, and artists to campus to speak on a broad range of topics and current interests.

The Department of Art History houses the Visual Resources Center, which currently holds a broad and extensive collection of approximately 300,000 slides and digital images related to the arts for teaching and research, serving both the department and the university at large.

See HART and ARTV in the Courses of Instruction section.