

Art History

The art history major at Grand Valley State University offers students a broad based knowledge of visual culture, its social and historical contexts of production as well as an introduction to theoretical approaches. The major uses an interdisciplinary model which offers students opportunities for intensive study within the Department of Art and Design while allowing them to select from courses offered in other departments across the GVSU campus.

The program's emphasis on visual analysis, research, critical thinking, presentations, and writing prepare students for a wide variety of careers. These transferable skills are excellent preparation for later professional studies such as law, business, and arts administration. For students interested in pursuing graduate study in art history, the degree provides a foundation for university teaching, art writing, as well as gallery or museum work.

Requirements for the Art History Major

All art history majors will earn a B.A. degree. In addition to the general education requirements, including third semester language proficiency, students are required to complete 39 credit hours toward the major.

Foundation Courses: 6 credit hours:

All art history majors are required to take the two introductory courses to provide them with an introduction to the chronology and methods of the discipline of art history.

- ART 221 - Survey of Art History I credits: 3
- ART 222 - Survey of Art History II credits: 3

Distribution Courses: 15 credit hours:

Art history majors are required to take courses that cover a range of historical periods and cultures. Students will take two courses in Ancient through Early-Modern Art as well as two courses in Modern and Contemporary Art categories for a total of 12 credit hours. In addition, one course is required from the World Art category for an additional 3 credit hours towards the distribution requirements.

Ancient through Early-Modern Art (choose two courses)

- CLA 250 - Ancient Art and Archeology credits: 3
- ART 322 - Medieval Art (previously taught as ART 380) credits: 3
- ART 323 - Renaissance Art (previously taught as ART380) credits: 3
- ART 380 - Topics in Art (history emphasis) credits: 3

Modern and Contemporary Art (choose two courses)

- ART 325 - Nineteenth-Century Art credits: 3
- ART 327 - Art Since 1945 credits: 3
- ART 380 - Topics in Art (history emphasis) credits: 3
- ART 421 - Surrealism credits: 3
- ART 425 - 19th Century American Art (previously taught as ART 380) credits: 3

World Art (choose one course)

- ART 420 - Asian Art credits: 3
- ART 422 - Islamic Art (previously taught as ART380) credits: 3
- ART 380 - Topics in Art (history emphasis) credits: 3

Elective Courses: 6 credit hours

Students will select at least two elective courses. These may include courses emphasizing the analysis of visual culture offered by other departments.

- ART 218 - Design History credits: 3
- ART 322 - Medieval Art (previously taught as ART 380) credits: 3
- ART 323 - Renaissance Art (previously taught as ART 380) credits: 3
- ART 325 - Nineteenth-Century Art credits: 3
- ART 327 - Art Since 1945 credits: 3
- ART 380 - Topics in Art (history emphasis) credits: 3
- ART 420 - Asian Art credits: 3
- ART 422 - Islamic Art (previously taught as ART 380) credits: 3
- ART 421 - Surrealism credits: 3
- ART 425 - 19th Century American Art (previously taught as ART 380) credits: 3
- PHI 220 - Aesthetics credits: 3
- CLA 250 - Ancient Art and Archeology credits: 3
- COM 225 - Film Culture credits: 3
- CPH 366 - History of Photography II credits: 3
- COM 348 - Film Theories credits: 3
- SOC 346 - Sociology of Art credits: 3
- COM 373 - Women and Minorities in Film and Television credits: 3

Studio Requirements: 6 credit hours

Students are required to take two studio art courses to enrich their understanding of the artistic processes they examine as art historians.

- ART 150 - 2-D Design credits: 3
- ART 151 - 3-D Design credits: 3
- ART 152 - Color and Design (prerequisite is 2-D design) credits: 3
- ART 153 - Creative Problem Solving credits: 3
- ART 155 - Introduction to Drawing I credits: 3
- ART 157 - Introduction to Drawing II (prerequisite is Drawing I) credits: 3
- 200 level - Studio course in an emphasis area* credits: 3

*students must obtain permission of the instructor

Capstone and Senior Thesis: 6 credit hours

After they have completed their other art history requirements, students will take a capstone seminar which offers them a discussion-intensive classroom experience. During their final semester, students will complete a senior thesis with the assistance of their academic advisor.

- ART 495 - Issues in Art/Capstone credits: 3
- ART 496 - Senior Thesis (to be developed) credits: 3

Distribution of General Education Requirements:

Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their advisors and create individual study plans appropriate to their area of interest in the major. These courses will allow students to enrich their understanding of the cultural contexts for art production. Students may combine these courses to meet other requirements in the art history and general education programs. Some possible fields of exploration include—sociology, anthropology, history, philosophy, literature, music history, theater history, and foreign languages.