

Course flyers

Fall 2025



Art History

Fall 2025

AH100

Introduction to Art & Art History

Prof. Marie-Agathe Simonetti

This course is a broad introduction to art and art history. In an interconnected, global, digital world, images have become one of the most powerful means of communication. The course provides students skills to better understand, analyze and interpret pictures and artworks. From painting, architecture, manga to video games, the course covers a wide range of media, times and areas. Placing artworks into their social and historical contexts, students will uncover the different meanings and purposes behind works of art. All students are welcome

T/Th 11:00-12:15 | CRN



Art History

FALL 2025

AH110

World History of Art and the Built Environment I

Prof. Ömür Harmanşah

Global survey of the art, architecture, material and visual culture of ancient and medieval societies from prehistory to 1400 CE. Introduces basic analytical tools of art history in studying premodern art and architecture in its cultural, political & historical context. This is a hybrid course with pre-recorded lectures and in-person discussion. Students must sign up for one (in-person) discussion section in addition to class registration. *Creative Arts course.*

Hybrid | CRN 10114



Art History

Fall 2025

AH/GLAS 125

Introduction to the Art and Architecture of Asia

Prof. Catherine Becker

Spanning more than two millennia and covering more than 17 million square miles, the art and architecture of Asia is diverse and dazzling. This class examines topics including bronze-casting, ink landscape painting, the relationship between political authority and artistic patronage, and the synergies between text and image in art and related performance traditions, with special attention to visual storytelling techniques. This course has no prerequisites; all students are welcome. Creative Arts and World Cultures course.

TTH 3:30-4:45 | CRN 41012



Art History

Fall 2025

AH/GLAS 219

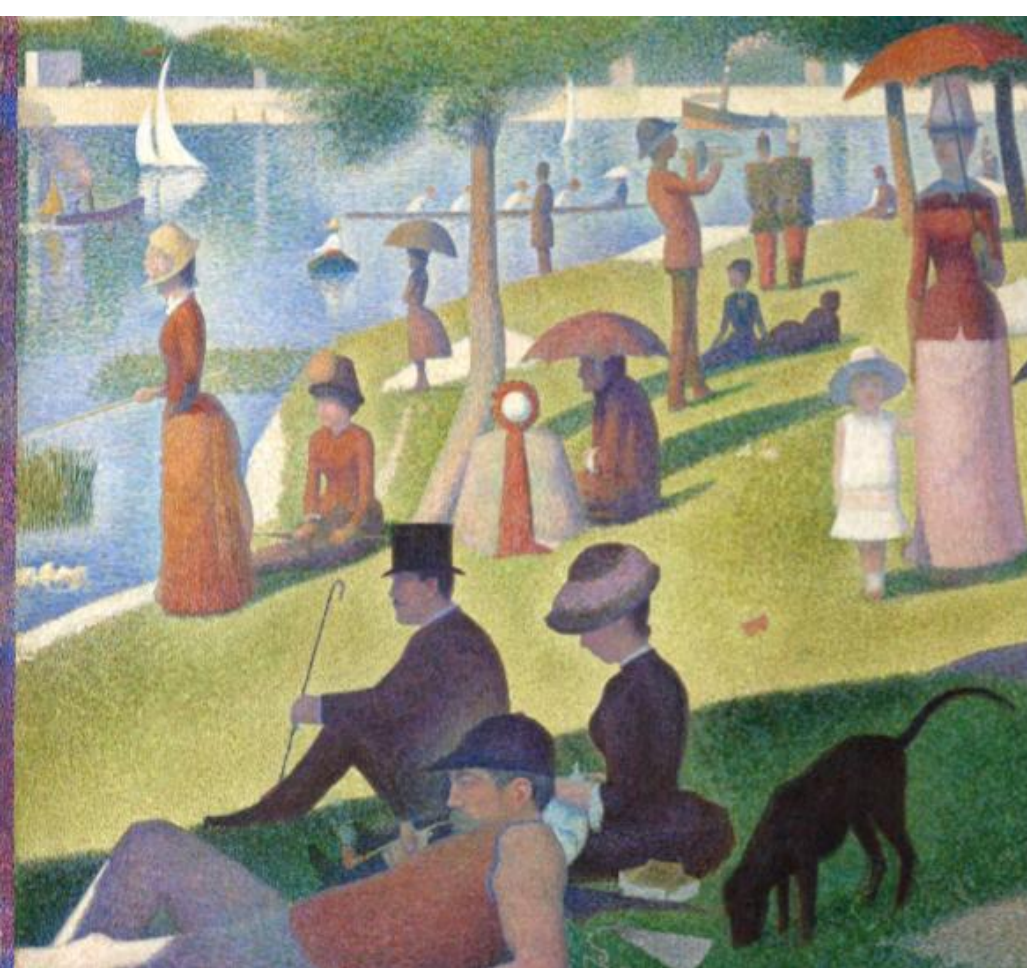
Art and Architecture of East Asia

Prof. Catherine Becker

This introductory survey will examine more than six millennia of East Asian art. Topics will include the relationship between art and political power, the use of imagery in death rituals, the adoption and adaptation of Buddhism and its material culture, the expressive connections between text and image, the creation of numinous landscapes in ink painting, and the circulation of popular imagery, such as prints and film. Creative Arts and World Cultures course.

T/TH 12:30-1:45 | CRN 32181





Art History

FALL 2025

AH260

European Art, 1750-1900

Prof. Nina Dubin

This course surveys modern European art from the rise of paintings of everyday life in eighteenth-century Paris to the heyday of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism.

T/TH 11:00-12:15 | CRN 10154



Art History

FALL 2025

AH273

**Visual Culture of
The Ancient Andes**

Prof. Andrew Finegold

A survey of the visual expressions, material culture, and built environment of ancient Andean civilization, from the earliest manifestations of societal complexity through the Spanish Conquest, with particular attention to the environmental, ideological, and socio-political dimensions of aesthetic production. Cultures to be discussed include Chavín, Nasca, Moche, Wari, and Inca. Course Information: Same as LALS 239. *Creative Arts* course, and *World Cultures* course.

T/Th 2:00-3:15 | CRN 31622



Art History

FALL 2025

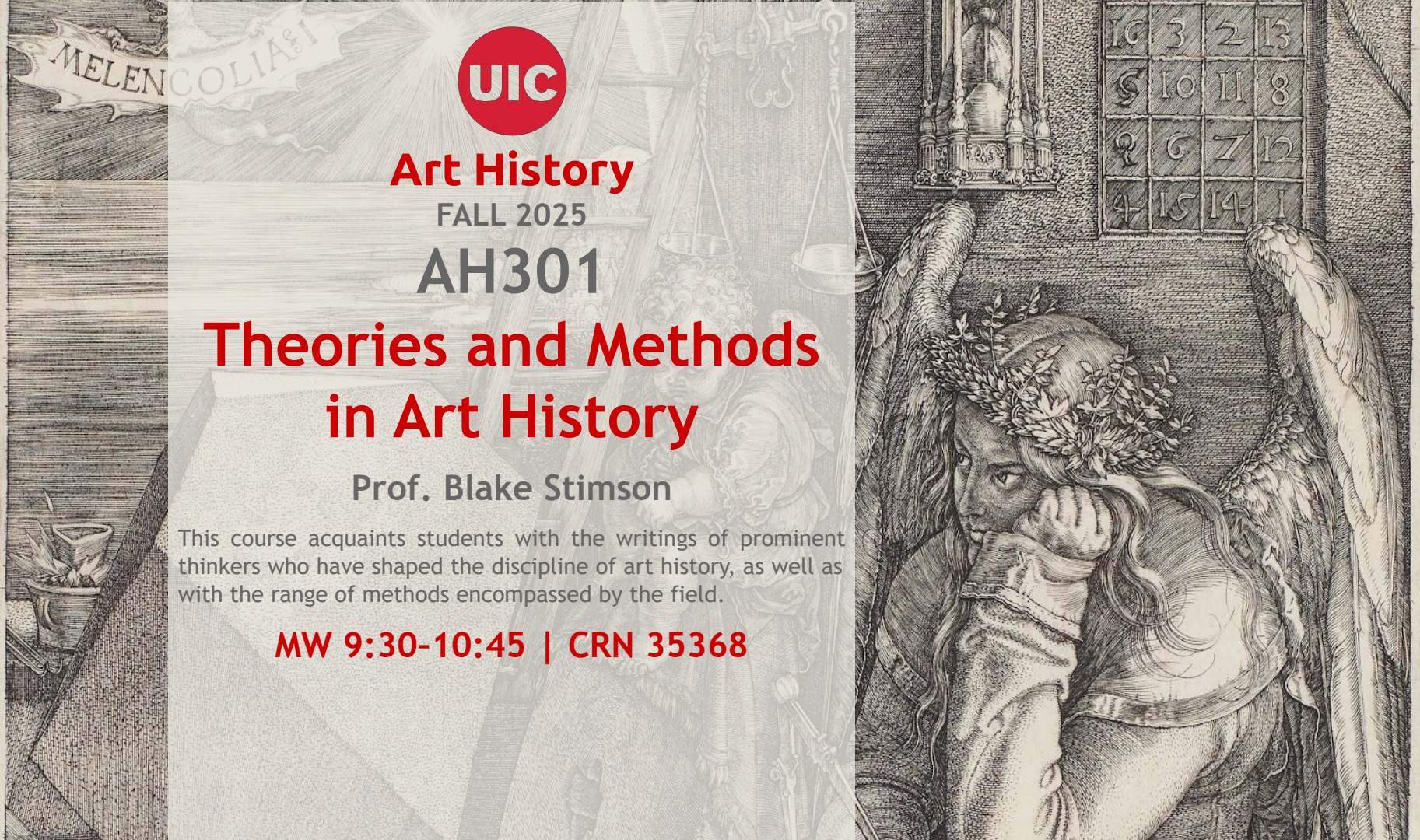
AH301

Theories and Methods in Art History

Prof. Blake Stimson

This course acquaints students with the writings of prominent thinkers who have shaped the discipline of art history, as well as with the range of methods encompassed by the field.

MW 9:30-10:45 | CRN 35368





Art History

FALL 2025

AH303

Writing Art History

Prof. Blake Stimson

A one-unit course exploring, practicing, refining, and criticizing the various modes critics and art historians have found to capture aesthetic experience in words, keeping always in mind the question of how we want to write art history today.

F 10:00-10:50 | CRN 39948





Art History

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AH 430

The Body and Photography in Asia

Prof. Marie-Agathe Simonetti

Through the body, this seminar will investigate the complexity of photography in global Asia. The course will be thematically and geographically based. It will cover the national and transnational practices in South, Southeast, and East Asia, including India, China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines. From around the 1950s to today, the course will deal with topics of war, death, the fragmented body, colonialism, postcolonialism, gender, diaspora, and global pictorialism.

Mondays 3:00-5:30 PM | CRN



Mai Nam,
Militiawoman,
1960s. In Thy Phu,
*Warring Visions:
Photography and
Vietnam*, 2022.



UIC

Art History

Fall 2025

AH470

Mesoamerican Codices

Prof. Andrew Finegold

An exploration of the scribal arts of Mesoamerica, with particular attention to the ways historical and ritual time was pictorially represented and structured in pre-Hispanic books. We will engage with the primary sources both through physical facsimiles of the screenfold manuscripts as well as through high-resolution digital images, and we will read a variety of scholarship providing insights into the nature of Indigenous writing and calendrical systems, religious beliefs and epistemologies, and the integration of these with socio-political considerations.

T 3:30-6:00 | CRNs 30064 (ug) & 30211 (g)



Art History

FALL 2025

AH480

COLLECTING ART AND BUILDING THE ART MUSEUM

Prof. Martha POLLAK

This seminar will consider highlights in the emergence of art museums and of exhibition practices from the early modern period to the present.

Wednesdays 12.30pm - 3pm
CRN 44271



Art History

FALL 2025

AH510

WHAT WAS ART? WHAT WAS HISTORY?

Prof. Blake Stimson

As we reflect on the lost modern ideal of art from our post-art-historical perspective of the last 75 years we will strive to take Richard Wollheim's 1987 burn to heart: "Many art-historians, in their scholarly work, make do with a psychology that, if they tried to live their lives by it, would leave them at the end of an ordinary day without lovers, friends, or any insight into how this had come about." What did it mean to think of art—a category of things, after all, that was once thought to be of consuming beauty—like a friend or lover? We rarely think this way now. Our task will be to ask how it once felt and consider whether Wollheim was right.

Wednesdays 3:00-5:30 | CRN 10246





Art History

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AH 550

Early Modern Paper Culture

Prof. Nina Dubin

Politically, commercially, and culturally, paper played a seminal role in the early modern world. Making use of scholarship from a variety of disciplines, and spanning the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries, this seminar surveys episodes in art practice (with a focus on Europe and the Americas) alongside the ascendancy of paper. Topics to be considered include, among others, print in the service of colonialism; cartography; conceptions of authorship, authenticity, reproduction and the counterfeit; the rise of paper money; and the commerce in and aesthetics of works on paper.

Thursday 3:30-6:00 CRN 47114



Art History

FALL 2025

AH561

HOLDING ONTO ART IN THE 1960s

Prof. Elise Archias

The pendant seminar to last year's "Sixties Art and the PMC." Explores artists in the U.S. and Brazil who worked with modernist dialectics in the face of the global embrace of nonart, systems, and the "anti-aesthetic" after 1960. Case studies: Rainer, Hesse, Oiticica, Mitchell, Edwards, Lygia Clark, Agnes Martin, and others.

W 9:00-11:30 | CRN