Course flyers

Spring 2019
Diverse social and psychological aspects of nakedness, nudity and related forms of bodily vulnerability studied through a wide-ranging history of art. Team-taught by the entire Art History faculty. Rigorous training in visual literacy. Museum visit. Course Information: Field trips required at a nominal fee. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture and one Discussion. Individual and Society course.

MW 12-12:50 | CRN 37790 + F dis
Comprehensive overview of how art, architecture and visual culture from 1400 CE through contemporary respond to and shape culture, religion, politics and history. To be properly registered students must enroll in three credits online lecture (19877) and one credit discussion section (either online or on campus). Creative Arts Gen Ed. 4 credits. Schedule determined by Discussion Section.

CRN 19877 + Discussion Section
Art History
SPRING 2019
AH/GLAS 125
Introduction to the Art and Architecture of Asia
Prof. Catherine Becker

Spanning more than two millennia, the art and architecture of Asia is diverse and dazzling. This course introduces students to the major artistic methods, monuments, and concepts associated with Asian art and architecture. The 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.

Understanding the Creative Arts and Exploring World Cultures course

TTh 12:30-1:45 | CRN 35429
This course is an overview of the history of Mexican art with an emphasis on Spanish Colonial painting. By carefully analyzing the history of painting in México, before and after the conquest, it answers a set of thematic questions regarding the exclusionary practices of painting in and outside of the hegemonic artistic discourses. The main goal is to critically engage with the history of colonial guilds, the academy of art, and the syncretic local religious practices that shaped the way painting developed as a leading cultural practice in Mexico.
Episodes in Mid-century Modern Art: Europe, the U.S., Brazil, and Japan

Prof. Elise Archias

Exploration of modernist painting and sculpture (plus one work of architecture) as it took shape in four geographic areas from 1920 to 1960 and the tremendous aesthetic changes that followed in the Sixties. We’ll consider how certain modernist formal questions about relations between abstraction and figuration, structure and accident, universal and particular were taken up and played out by artists and artist groups in these different places and why.

TTh 2-3:15 | CRN 40704/40705
This course will survey the history of architecture and related visual culture (paintings, sculpture and graphic art) from the revival of antiquity in the fifteenth century in Florence and Rome to the start of the counter-Reformation in 1563. We will examine residential, military and religious architecture, cities and urban design, and country estates and gardens, with emphasis on the Italian peninsula. The goal of this course is to make you knowledgeable about this watershed moment in the history of Western civilization, whose creative contributions to the visual arts continue to be influential today.
This class was designed to offer an overview of the history of Latin American colonial art with an emphasis on the viceroyalties of New Spain, Brazil and Peru. As a common thread throughout this course we will discuss the development of painting, altarpieces and architecture from 1500-1820. From the missions of New Mexico to the Cuzco School of Painting, this class will cover the broad cultural production of the Spanish colonies in the Americas. Same as LALS 263. Prerequisite(s): Three hours of art history at the 100 level, or consent of the instructor. Creative Arts course, and World Cultures course.
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 11-12:15 | CRN 28601 28603
Curator? Conservator? Critic? Does thinking about a career in art history feel like gazing out into a foggy abyss? If so, Art History 404 is designed for you. Through guest lectures by Chicago-area professionals and field trips to local institutions, this seminar will introduce a range of careers that require knowledge of art history. Readings, discussions, and assignments will provide students with opportunities to analyze and engage with a range of art historical practices.

F 11:00-1:40 | CRN 32354/32355
Legacies of the Modern in the 1960s

Prof. Elise Archias

Many works made by women, people of color, and former colonial subjects in the late 1950s and early 1960s continue to build on strategies and ideas learned from 19th and 20th c. modern art. How should we understand this difference from Pop and minimalist art made by white, male artists that would dominate the art world and effectively displace “modern” art by 1965? Among other texts, we will read Kenneth Warren’s two books on mid-century African American literature and ask whether any of his insights might be adapted for art history.

TTh 9:30-10:45 | CRN 19776/20525
Things, artifacts, objects... These are our intimate companions as we live in and make sense of the world. In this course we will explore new work on thing theory, materials and materiality, the social life and the cultural biography of objects, their ability to configure social realities, human subjectivities, and cultural identities. We will pay close attention to the contemporary theories in the field of material culture studies with a special focus on the materials, materiality, agency, and technologies of production.

Thu 3-5:30 pm | CRN 38525-6
Art History
SPRING 2019
AH470
Art and Architecture of The Ancient Maya
Prof. Andrew Finegold

An in-depth examination of the visual and material culture of Maya civilization. Both relatably humanistic in its focus on the body and radically unfamiliar in its representation of—and articulation with—a distinctive worldview, Maya aesthetic production will be contextualized through a parallel investigation of indigenous cosmology, mythology, ideology, and history.

T 3:30-6 | CRN 30064 30211
This course explores the making of early modern art in a globalizing world. We will primarily focus on art production in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe and the Americas in an age that witnessed the expansion of an international commodities trade with its attendant opportunities, catastrophes and risks.
It has been a commonplace for a century now that “to understand the esthetic”—this is John Dewey in 1934—“one must begin with it in the raw.” Therein lies art’s autonomy, its capacity for critical distance. This course will question this assumption by drawing on the tradition in German philosophy that turns on Hegel’s assertion “The state is not a work of art.” By drawing on the continuities between the political and aesthetic philosophies of Kant, Hegel, Marx, Lukács and Adorno we will develop a working account of realism that might effectively respond to the tragic cultural politics of our own day.

Mondays 3:00-5:30 | CRN 26866