Influential interpretations of historic monuments of art and architecture considered through four distinct ways of seeing: the “believing eye,” the “analytic eye,” the “alienated eye,” and the “market eye.” Students will develop and enhance their visual literacy to better prepare for an increasingly cross-cultural world.

MWF 10-10:50 | CRN 27410
Whether on the internet, television, billboard, or in a magazine, we continue to understand the world around us through visual images. Increasingly, the meaning of art gets re-defined every day. Rather than passively absorb these images, this course will teach students to analyze, interpret, and engage with visual artifacts and artworks on a critical and intellectual level.

MWF 12-12:50 | CRN 31612
World History of Art and the Built Environment, Part 1

Comprehensive overview of world art, architecture, and visual culture of ancient and medieval societies from prehistory to 1400 CE. Introduces students to basic analytical tools of art history in studying premodern art and architecture in their cultural, political and historical context. Students must sign up for one discussion section in addition to class registration. Creative Arts course.

An Asynchronous Online Course | CRN 10114
Art History
FALL 2020
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 12:30-1:45 | CRN 41012
In biennials, art fairs, galleries and pop-ups around the world since 1960, the idea of art has congealed into a single homogenous style. Referred to as “contemporary” rather than “modern,” it is assumed to be Global rather than Eurocentric. We will ask why art has turned out as it has, what it means, and whether it will be changed by you.

T/Th 2-3:15 | CRN 23943
This class will explore museums and exhibitions through a variety of readings, field trips, lectures, films, case studies, and more. Throughout the semester, we will consider the theoretical and practical functions of museums, and students will learn how to analyze, interpret, and engage with an art exhibition. Students will be encouraged to think critically about how museums construct narratives, both art historical and national, and to understand the socio-political contexts of exhibitions and our responses to them.
This class will be taught by Prof. Karen E. Ros. It's scheduled on MWF from 2:00-2:50, with CRN 10122.
Art History
FALL 2020
AH206
Museums & Exhibitions in Motion
Marissa Baker

This course will examine museums and crisis. How do museums respond to crises such as pandemics, war, anti-black violence, settler colonialism, precarity, and gentrification? How can we reimagine museums beyond crisis to create new institutional forms and community resources? Students will engage these and other questions through readings, class discussion, field trips, guest speakers, and creative research projects.

Open to all students; no prerequisites!

Asynchronous Online | CRN 45350
Cities are powerhouses of social life, theaters of political action, places of belonging and love. They come alive with public events. What did ancient and medieval cities look like and how were they imagined by their citizens? Reading current literature on cities and urban space, this class investigates the urban design and festivals of eleven cities in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, including Nineveh, Babylon, Jerusalem, and Constantinople.
At the turn of the nineteenth century natural history was transformed into biology, general grammar into philology, and the study of wealth into political economy. How did architecture respond to this paradigm shift? To answer this question, we will investigate urban and architectural design in Europe between c. 1750-1900, by mapping their relationship with emerging production relations, technological innovation, and normative social aspirations. Our exploration of architecture will consider its many modes of practice as objects of conspicuous consumption, as vehicles of social and cultural distancing, and as instruments of public sphere. We will evaluate buildings, interior designs and urban interventions as forms of discourse across media and fields of visual production.

MWF 1:00-1:50 (online synchronous) | CRN 31618
This course surveys modern European art from the rise of paintings of everyday life in eighteenth-century Paris to the heydey of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism.

T/TH 11:00-12:15 | CRN 10154/10155
This class is intended to be a survey of Latin American colonial art from European invasion to independence. Painting, sculpture, “decorative art”, and architecture will serve as platforms to discuss issues of class, race and gender in Spanish colonial communities.

ONLINE! | AH: CRN 41505
LALS: CRN 41506
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.
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.
Explores examples of performance art and dance from Europe, the U.S., Russia, and Japan. One main theme: how “modernity” was quickly changing the ways people experienced their own embodiment. Students will learn to describe languages of the body, grapple with theoretical texts that characterize four historical periods, and write a research paper on a performance artist of their choice. Oral final exam.
This is a seminar designed to explore the ways in which the Spanish Empire defined its boundaries in the Americas. We will explore everything from maps, chronicles and mural painting to understand the ideological implications behind landscape painting during the colonial period.
Examines the term "avant-garde" and its referents in Russian culture before and after the October Revolution of 1917. Considers such movements, as Cubo- and Ego-Futurism, Neo-Primitivism, Suprematism, Biomechanics, and Constructivism. Topics treated will include the impact of new technologies; relationship between art and politics; cross-pollination between media; blending of borders between high art and mass culture; abstraction and figuration; war and revolution; gender and representation; and the utopian impulse to have the arts redesign society as a whole. Works of Russian artists will be analyzed not only in their political and historical context, but also in the theoretical and artistic context of the European avant-garde.

W 6-8:30 | CRN 34606/35784
Things, artifacts, objects... These are our intimate companions as we live in and make sense of the world. In this course we 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 theories in material culture studies, focusing on materials, materiality, agency, and technologies of production.
This course’s general aim is to acquaint art history graduate students with some of the prominent late-20th and early 21st-century thinkers who have shaped the discipline and with the range of methods encompassed by the field. Each week, a significant issue, set of problems or approach will be examined through close reading and discussion of a selection of critical texts, our objective being sustained engagement with the various assumptions, commitments, motivations and challenges that the writing of art history brings to light.
This seminar will begin with the case for Kant’s old aestheticist and statist argument that “the beautiful interests empirically only in society.” We will then turn to the opposing case in post-1968 anti-statist, anti-aesthetic treatises such as Sussman’s The Aesthetic Contract, Agamben’s The Coming Community, Scott’s Seeing Like a State, and Azoulay’s The Civil Contract of Photography. In the end we will look to selected examples of contemporary art (such as Haacke’s Der Bevölkerung) to derive our own dialectical sublation of these first two positions.