Course flyers

Spring 2022
How to look at a work of art? This course is designed to provide an introduction to art historical methods. Through discussion of movement-defining works of art and architecture, students will learn and practice the foundations of visual analyses: formal, aesthetic, iconographic, and sociohistorical. The course aims to enhance students' visual literacy and empower them to become critical viewers in an increasingly image-populated world.

MWF 11-11:50 | CRN 22801
MWF 12-12:50 | CRN 36950
Influential interpretations of historic monuments of art and architecture across cultures and ages. We also explore the material and cultural—including varying economic, political, religious, and individual—foundations that have shaped the history of art. Students will develop and enhance their visual literacy to better prepare for an increasingly cross-cultural world.
This team-taught course introduces students to the social and psychological aspects of nakedness, nudity, and related forms of embodiment in their ideal and corporeal significance and significations through the distinctively rigorous training in critical thinking, creativity, and visual literacy offered by the discipline of art history. The course will introduce students to the entire art history faculty in residence and the full range of art-historical subfields and methods offered at UIC. Asynchronous lectures + weekly in-person classroom discussions.

M/W online lectures
F discussion 3-3:50 | CRN 38337
F discussion 4-4:50 | CRN 38337
Hybrid
AH 111 is a comprehensive overview of world art, architecture, and visual culture, from the later middle ages to the 21st century, concentrating on Europe but also including Asia, Africa, and Meso-America. While AH 111 emphasizes period artistic styles, many religious, historical, social, economic, geographic, and psychological elements will be considered to explain why the visual expressions took the forms that they did.
This course investigates architecture and urban form of Chicago in a long historical span. While consulting texts that reflect on the experience of this metropolis, we will also discuss thematically relevant readings that will equip students with knowledge of protocols of history of architecture, further informing their critical understanding of the built environment. Issues of structural, formal and programmatic innovation, but also social justice and question of how practice of architecture contributed to it or gave rise to social inequality, will be our concern. Mechanisms of production of space and their critical reading will form core of our interests.
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.
This course explores developments in the history of photography including the cultural, social, commercial, scientific, political, and artistic applications of photography, and its transformation of the related social meanings of art and subjectivity. AH 130 is an Understanding the Past course in the General Education Program.

T/TH 5:00-6:15 pm | CRN 39221
In-Person

This course engages students with the history of museum and exhibition practices, frameworks, and experiences through key readings, films, guest lectures, and virtual museum and gallery visits. When we consider exhibitions defined as “the medium through which most art becomes known,” we must consider the forms and processes that position exhibitions as a field of multiple possibilities. To this end, we will familiarize ourselves with the histories, types, and practices of exhibition spaces in order to orient ourselves with how they function socially, ethically, and interpretively. In short, through the study of museum and exhibition practices, what might we learn about art, the world, ourselves, and each other?
Introduction to the writing and reading of art criticism in a variety of media. Course Information: Recommended background: 3 hours of Art History at the 100-level. Creative Arts course.

T/Th 8:00-9:15AM on zoom | CRN 31002

How can psychoanalysis aid our understanding of modern and contemporary art? This class focuses on interpreting artworks with the help of important concepts in psychoanalysis, such as the unconscious, repression, sublimation, dreams, hysteria, humor, and perversion. We will emphasize surrealism, abstract art, and performance; authors include Sigmund Freud, Donald Winnicott, Melanie Klein, Herbert Marcuse, and Slavoj Žižek.
This course will provide an in-depth discussion of pivotal 20th and 21st century Latin American artists and their contributions in order to establish a wider and more complex vision of Modern Art.
This is an introduction to ancient Egyptian art & archaeology from its start in the Neolithic through the Roman period. Side-by-side with this introduction we study how ancient Egypt inspired Americans from 19th century Egyptomania & Frederick Douglass’s Black Orientalism to Hollywood movies & Afrofuturism. This inspiration often was harmful; Egyptomania at Chicago’s Columbian Exposition racially instrumentalized Egypt. The course is designed to critically examine the past and present lives of ancient Egypt.

MW 4:00-5:45 | CRN 30591
Art History
SPRING 2022
AH/GLAS 219
Art and Architecture
China, Korea, and Japan
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 42829/42830
This course surveys the history of design in Europe and the United States from about 1925 to the present from various historical, methodological, and theoretical perspectives. Covering a wide range of fields, including art, architecture, and interior design as well as industrial and graphic design, this course introduces students to the myriad ways in which design interacts with culture and society and examines the evolution of the role of the designer in modern society.
Ranging from 1590 to c.1725 this course takes up the artistic production of painters, sculptors and architects working in western Europe--mostly in Rome, Paris and London--during a period fraught by religious and political conflicts. Creative Arts course.

TTH 11am -12.15pm | CRN 30057
Modern Art in Europe and the Americas

Prof. Elise Archias

Episodes from the history of modern art in France, Russia, the United States, Uruguay, Mexico, and Brazil during the period 1900 to 1968, when debates about abstraction vs. realism and universality vs. identity had very high stakes. Creative Arts course.

T/TH 9:30-10:45 | CRN 31010
This class offers an overview of the history of Latin American colonial art with an emphasis on the viceroyalties of New Spain, and Peru. 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: 100-level AH course, or consent of the instructor. Creative Arts, and World Cultures course
Visual Culture of Mesoamerica

Prof. Andrew Finegold

A survey of the visual expressions, material culture, and built environment of ancient Mesoamerican 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 Olmec, Teotihuacan, Maya, and Aztec. Course Information: Same as LALS 240. Creative Arts course, and World Cultures course.

Asynchronous Online | CRN 36771
Taught as a practicum, and act as a laboratory for imaginative, justice focused approaches to the work of cultural institutions. It will be organized around the collaborative design and completion of an exhibition and/or program. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): AH 180.

M 6-8:30pm | CRN 28599
This seminar investigates the Black Atlantic through art and theories of the black female body. Photography, sculpture, and film are focus points for discussions on the constructions of race, gender and other forms of identification. Topics of discussion include black girlhood, visual tropes (Venus, Mammy, Jezebel) and queer archives. The seminar is also informed by exhibition practices of the black female body, from the 18th century to the present.

W 3:00-5:30 pm | CRN 44152 & 44165
Art History
Spring 2022
AH484
Art History in Action: An Introduction to Careers in the Arts
Prof. Lisa Yun Lee

Through guest lectures by prominent Chicago-area professionals and field trips to local institutions, this seminar will introduce a range of careers in the arts along with the skills and training required to undertake such jobs.

F 10:00-12:50 pm | CRN 45579 & 45580
Illicit on Display: Cultural Property, Repatriation & Museums

Prof. Peri Johnson

From a Degas landscape in the Art Institute to a fake statue purchased by the Getty Museum, many artworks on display in museums are tangled in histories of violence both physical & structural. This course examines the ethics, politics & economics of art & antiquities collecting by museums from the 19th century to today. Case studies from around the world illustrate stages in collecting from looting & illicit networks to the art market with its dealers, curators & benefactors. The course takes the ‘illicit’ of its title as illegal & unethical aspects of the art market & museums.

Th 3:30-6:00 | CRN 45581 & 45582
Architects Write:
Topics in the Literature of Architecture

Prof. Martha Pollak

Through selected readings ranging from Vitruvius, the ur-text of architecture, to Louis Sullivan, the unsung hero of Chicago architecture, this seminar will examine topics in architectural theory and criticism. Special emphasis will be given to architectural illustration and the discourse of the house.

Tuesdays, 3:30pm - 6:00pm / CRN 41859
Art History
Spring 2022
AH562
Pre-Columbian / (Post-)Modern
Prof. Andrew Finegold

An inquiry into the ways modern and contemporary artists have invoked, appropriated, alluded to, or otherwise engaged with the art and cultures of the ancient Americas. We will consider the diverse approaches and motivations giving rise to these practices, with particular concern over the variable status granted to the past in the present. While this course will focus specifically on artists who incorporate reference to the ancient Americas into their work, we will also read more broadly on frameworks for the analyzing of such appropriative or historically engaged practices, which should be of interest to students working on similar approaches from other parts of the world.

T 6:30-9:00 pm | CRN 33019