Art History

The major and minor in art history are administered by the Department of Art and Art History. Advisors in art history: Professors Bergmann (on leave Spring 2016), Davis, Lee, Sinha, Staiti; Assistant Professor Maier.

Overview

Contact Info

Rose Ryan, senior administrative assistant
Paul Staiti, chair

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 36 credits

Courses

- At least four courses at the 200 level, in each of the following areas of study: Ancient and Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque, Modern and American, and non-Western.
- Two courses at the 300 level in art history, not including 395
- Three additional courses at any level

Other

Art history majors may not minor in architectural studies.

Majors may enroll in 300-level seminars at the other Five College institutions with permission in advance from their advisor and the department chair. Students who plan to enroll in 300-level courses outside of the Five Colleges, especially yearlong courses to be taken abroad, should first consult with their advisor and the department chair to determine if the courses meet departmental criteria for 300-level credit.

Reading knowledge of at least two foreign languages is recommended for those contemplating graduate study in art history.

Students should be aware that preference in 300-level courses is normally given to those who have taken a relevant course at the 200 level. Majors are not automatically guaranteed preference in seminars that might be oversubscribed and, therefore, should not wait until the last semester to fulfill a seminar requirement.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- A minimum of 20 credits, 16 of which must be above the 100 level

Courses

- Any 100-level art history course or AP credit in art history
- Any four courses in art history at the 200 level or above

Within these general requirements a student may construct a minor as focused or as comprehensive as she wishes.

Course Offerings

ARTH-100 Image and Environment

ARTH-100SE Image and Environment: 'Ways of Seeing'
Spring
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. Maier
Credits: 4

ARTH-100WA Image and Environment: 'Western Art: 1400-2000'
Fall
An introduction to painting, sculpture, and architecture in Europe and America from the Renaissance to the present. Classes are organized around five focused topics: Renaissance Florence; the artist in the seventeenth century; art and revolution; nineteenth-century abstraction. Lectures will be complemented by class discussion and short films.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
P. Staiti
Credits: 4

ARTH-105 Arts of Asia
Fall
This multicultural course introduces students to the visual arts of Asia from the earliest times to the present. In a writing- and speaking-intensive environment, students will develop skills in visual analysis and art historical interpretation. Illustrated class lectures, group discussions, museum visits, and a variety of writing exercises will allow students to explore architecture, sculpture, painting, and other artifacts in relation to the history and culture of such diverse countries as India, China, Cambodia, Korea, and Japan.
Crosslisted as: Asian Studies 107
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
A. Sinha
Credits: 4

ARTH-202 Talking Pictures: An Introduction to Film
Spring
Some of the best feature-length films of the past century have commanded our attention and imagination because of their compelling artistry and the imaginative ways they tell stories visually and verbally. This course closely studies narrative films from around the world, from the silent era to the present, and in the process it introduces students to the basic elements of film form, style, and narration. Some of the films to be considered are: Broken Blossoms, Battleship Potemkin, Citizen Kane, Contempt, The Bicycle Thief, Ugetsu, Rear Window, Woman in the Dunes, The Marriage of Maria Braun, Days of Heaven, and Moulin Rouge.
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 202
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
P. Staiti
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

ARTH-215 From Alexander to Cleopatra: The Hellenistic World
Not Scheduled for This Year
Hellenistic art has often been regarded as a chaotic, decadent phase between the golden ages of classical Greece and imperial Rome. Yet the period in the Mediterranean from the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE to the Roman conquest of Egypt in 31 BCE saw the creation of some of the greatest masterpieces of ancient art, the development of formal art criticism, and the mass production of art for private enjoyment. The course addresses the new themes and purposes of art in a cosmopolitan culture that, in many respects, was not unlike our own.
ARTH-216 Empire: The Art and Archaeology of the Roman Provinces  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
At its height, the Roman Empire spanned a vast area, from modern Scotland to Libya and Iraq. Within that territory lived peoples of multiple races, languages, and religions. This course explores the art and architecture created in this global culture from its beginning in 30 BCE to the dedication of the first Christian capital, Constantinople, in 330 CE. Subjects include propaganda, arena spectacles, the home, mystery religions, and the catacombs.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
B. Bergmann  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-224 Age of the Cathedrals: 'Art in Europe, 1100-1500'  
Fall  
A historical survey of medieval architecture, monumental sculpture, and painting of France, England, Germany, and Italy. The course concentrates on the great church as a multimedia environment and on the religious, political and social roles of art in society.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
M. Davis  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-230 Italian Renaissance Art  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
This survey outlines the arts in Italy from the late thirteenth to sixteenth centuries, a time of major cultural transformation. To trace these developments, we will take a geographic approach, focusing on cities and societies in order to understand the diverse social networks that linked artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo with their publics. We will also address themes such as the role of women in the arts as both patrons and producers; the rise of print; and the expanding networks of cross-cultural contact that linked Italian cities like Florence, Rome, and Venice to places throughout western Europe and beyond.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
J. Maier  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-231 Northern Renaissance Art  
Spring  
This course will survey artistic production in Northern Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, with an emphasis on panel painting, manuscript illumination, and printmaking. In addition to examining major artists such as Jan van Eyck, Albrecht Dürer, and Pieter Bruegel the Elder, we will devote equal attention to seismic cultural shifts such as the print revolution and the origins of the art market, to explore the ways that media both old and new were deployed to make sense of expanding global horizons.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
J. Maier  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-233 Renaissance and Baroque Architecture in Italy  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
This course focuses on architecture in Italy--including churches, palaces, villas, and fortifications, as well as city planning--from 1400 to 1680. In this period, architects took their cues from the classical tradition even as they carved out their own territory, developing new techniques and perfecting old ones to realize their designs. We will trace shifting architectural practice through key figures from Brunelleschi to Bernini, and through the lens of larger cultural forces. We will also examine buildings in light of the painted and sculpted decorative programs that were often integral to their overall effect.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
J. Maier  
Credits: 4

ARTH-236 The Global Renaissance  
Fall  
The traditionalist view of the Renaissance treats Europe as if it were an isolated hotbed of cultural innovation. This course will reconsider the period as one of intensifying cross-pollination, when European artists were deeply affected by contact with the Near and Far East, Africa, and the Americas. Specific topics will include representations of distant lands and peoples; the collecting of exotic materials; cartography and expanding world horizons; Venice and the Ottoman world; and the reception of classical architecture in Latin America. We will consider many facets of Renaissance visual culture--from paintings and buildings to maps, prints, and illustrated books--that framed these global crosscurrents.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
J. Maier  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-241 Nineteenth-Century European Art: Neoclassicism to Impressionism  
Fall  
This course surveys art in Europe from roughly the French Revolutionary era to the last quarter of the nineteenth century, that is, from the neo-classical painters (David and his atelier) at one end and the great painters of modern life in Paris (Manet and his followers) at the other. That chronology represents one of the most important transformations in the history of art: the origins and early development of what we today call ‘modern art.’ We will spend considerable time tracing this difficult passage, pausing here and there to readjust ourselves to the shifting language of art and to orient art’s relationship to the modern public. Among the major figures to be studied are Constable, Courbet, Delacroix, Friedrich, Goya, Ingres, Monet, Renoir, and Turner.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
A. Lee  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-242 History of Photography  
Fall  
This survey course traces the rise and development of photography in the United States and, to a lesser extent, England, France, Germany, Mexico, and Russia. It charts the wide range of work with the camera, including commercial, vernacular, and fine art projects, and considers pictures from photography's very beginnings in the mid-nineteenth century to today's practices. Among the major figures to be discussed are Arbus, Brady, Cameron, Cartier-Bresson, Day, Evans, Frank, Johnston, Lange, Mapplethorpe, Modotti, Muybridge, Sander, Steichen, Stieglitz, and Weston.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
A. Lee  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-244 Architecture 1890-1990  
Fall  
This course will consider the rise and development of modern architecture from its beginnings in the late nineteenth century to today's practices. We will analyze both European and American art in the context of the rise of modernism and its many manifestations. We will also examine questions of design and urbanism in the modern period.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
A. Lee  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4
ARTH-243AR Architecture 1890-1990: 'Building the Modern Environment'  
Fall  
An exploration of major movements and personalities in architecture from the late nineteenth century to the present. Emphasizing the United States against the background of European developments, the course considers the search by architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, and Frank Gehry, for a language of form and space that captures the contemporary spirit as it elevates society to a higher plane of existence. Discussion focuses on issues of technology and utopia, the skyscraper, and the collision of tradition, modernity, and postmodernism in architecture since 1945.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
M. Davis  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-244 European Art 1885-1945  
Spring  
This course examines the great ruptures in European art that today we call modernist. It relates aspects of that art to the equally great transformations in European society: revolutionary ferment, the rise and consolidation of industrial capitalism, colonization and its discontents, and world war. Among the major figures to be studied are Duchamp, Matisse, Malevich, Picasso, Seurat, and van Gogh.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
A. Lee  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-245 Contemporary Art  
Spring  
This course traces the different paths of painting, sculpture, and photography in the United States and, less so, Western Europe since World War II. Initially, most of these paths traced a relationship with the 'crisis of modernism,' but increasingly, they have taken on a different vitality, drawing energy from a wide variety of postmodern and postcolonial subjects and debates: identity politics, transnationalism, diaspora. Can something that can be identified as an avant-garde practice exist in such a context? What kinds of questions are appropriate to ask about works that stridently attempt to suspend the very category of art?  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
A. Lee  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-250 American Art of the Nineteenth Century  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
A survey of painting and sculpture, this course introduces students to the work of individual artists. Classes also develop ways of looking at and thinking about art as the material expression of American social, political, and cultural ideas. Copley, Stuart, Cole, Church, Eakins, Homer, Sargent, Whistler, and Cassatt are some of the artists discussed.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
P. Statti  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-255 American Art and Architecture 1620-1880  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
A survey of painting, architecture, sculpture, and design from the Colonial period to the late nineteenth century, this course introduces students to period styles and building types, as well as individual painters and architects. Classes develop ways of looking at and thinking about art and objects as material expressions of American social, political, and cultural ideas. Topics will include: portraiture, colonial Boston, art and revolution, nature and nation, the West, domestic architecture, and the city of Washington. Copley, Peale, Jefferson, Stuart, Cole, and Church are some of the key figures to be studied.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
P. Statti  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-261 Arts of China  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
This course will survey arts of China from the neolithic period to the twentieth century. Class lectures will analyze ceramics, bronze vessels, sculpture, architecture, calligraphy, and painting in relation to various religious ideas and political formations that took place in China's long history.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives  
A. Sinha  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-262 Arts of Japan  
Spring  
This course explores the special characteristics of Japanese art and architecture, from the early asymmetry of Jomon pottery and the abstraction of Haniwa figures to the later elite arts of the aristocratic, military, and merchant classes: narrative scroll painting, gold-ground screens, and the 'floating world' of the color woodblock print. A historical survey of the arts of Japan, highlighting the interplay of art with religious and political issues.  
Crosslisted as: Asian Studies 270  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives  
A. Sinha  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-263 Arts of India  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
The multicultural course will survey architecture, sculpture, painting, and other arts of India from the earliest times to the twenty-first century. Students will explore the various arts as material expressions of a relationship between religious beliefs, geography and cultural conditions of the subcontinent of India in different historical periods. Class sessions will also provide opportunities for an examination of cross-cultural issues relating to the study of non-Western art in a Western academic discipline. Students will develop strategies for visual analysis and critical thinking through written assignments, class discussions, and close reading of scholarly articles.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives  
A. Sinha  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4

ARTH-271 Arts of Islam: Book, Mosque, and Palace  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
Through investigation of major works produced in the Muslim world between the seventh and seventeenth centuries from Spain to India, this course explores the ways in which art and architecture were used to embody the faith, accommodate its particular needs, and express the power of its rulers. Topics include the calligraphy of the Qur'an, illustrated literature, the architecture of the mosque, and the aristocratic palace.  
Crosslisted as: Asian Studies 271  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives  
M. Davis  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4
ARTH-290 Issues in Art History

ARTH-290AF Issues in Art History: 'Survey of African Art: The Creation of African Art'

Not Scheduled for This Year

What is African art? Why are so many different kinds of cultural expressions from such a large and diverse continent categorized in the same way? In this course, we emphasize artistic creation from the perspective of artists by studying works from various African cultures. We analyze the creation of African art as a subject of inspiration and research. Throughout the semester, we discuss African diasporic arts and contemporary African art. Students examine both scholarly and popular interpretations of art objects to develop skills in critical analysis and visual literacy. The course incorporates visits to on-campus resources, such as the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Gilvin
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

ARTH-290AP Issues in Art History: 'Ancient Painting and Mosaic'

Not Scheduled for This Year

The course treats the themes, techniques, and contexts of painting and mosaic in the ancient Mediterranean. From Bronze Age palaces to early Byzantine churches, surfaces were embellished with frescoes, pebbles, glass and jewels. These might be rendered in complex geometric shapes or with mythological scenes. Portable vases displayed elegantly drawn figures. We will examine the unique effects of each medium and how they influenced and interacted with each other.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
B. Bergmann
Credits: 4

ARTH-290BC Issues in Art History: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'

Not Scheduled for This Year

Indian popular cinema, known as Bollywood, is commonly criticized for meandering storylines, overblown spectacles, and distracting dance numbers. But we will take popular cinema seriously, and explore it as both, a vibrant cultural form in India as well as intelligent filmmaking that entertains and challenges us. We will analyze a selection of films as what scholar Lalitha Gopalan calls a ‘constellation of interruptions.’ Closely reading scholarly articles, participating in debates, writing guided assignments as well as independent research papers, we will learn to develop provocative ideas on Indian films in the context of world cinema.

Crosslisted as: Film Studies 270BC
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
A. Sinha
Credits: 4

ARTH-290CW Topics in Art History: 'The City As a Work of Art'

Not Scheduled for This Year

This course will focus on city maps and bird’s-eye views in order to explore urban representation and symbolism. Emphasis will be on European imagery from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries, but the overall scope will range from ancient to modern times, encompassing western and non-western places and works. The class includes units on the history, theory, and form of the city (including utopian and ideal cities); approaches to representing the city (maps, models, pictorial views); and case studies (Kaifeng, Kyoto, Paris, Siena, Tenochtitlan, Venice, and others). The overarching goal is to understand how the essence of the city can be expressed in visual form.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
J. Maier

ARTH-290GA Issues in Art History: 'Unearthing the Past: Great Archaeological Discoveries of the Ancient World'

Fall

The course considers excavations of the key Greek and Roman sites, such as Troy, Knossos, Olympia, Pompeii, and Aphrodisias, and with them the growth of archaeology as a hobby, a discipline, and a science. Moments of discovery, acts of preservation and restoration, tourism and popular reception will be covered.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
B. Bergmann
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

ARTH-290JR Issues in Art History: 'Jewish Religious Art and Material Culture: From Ancient Israel to Contemporary Judaism'

Not Scheduled for This Year

Despite the biblical prohibition against “graven images,” there exists a rich history of Jewish religious art and aesthetics. This course will study ancient Israelite art and archaeology, including the Second Temple in Jerusalem, the extraordinary mosaic floors and frescoes of early synagogues throughout the Mediterranean world, medieval illuminated Hebrew manuscripts and printed book culture, synagogues of later periods, including the wooden synagogues of Eastern Europe, and Judaic ritual objects of many types. Jewish art, architecture, and visual representation will be explored in the context of the ancient Near Eastern, Greco-Roman, Christian, and Islamic settings in which they evolved.

Crosslisted as: Jewish Studies 270, Religion 270
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Fine
Credits: 4

ARTH-290PM Issues in Art History: 'Pompeii'

Not Scheduled for This Year

Buried in the volcanic eruption of 79 CE, Pompeii provides an astounding level of preservation for fresco, sculpture, and luxury arts in addition to temples, baths, houses, shops, theaters, and streets. The rediscovery of the ancient site since the eighteenth century had a significant impact upon European art and literature. The course examines the surviving environment and artifacts created in the late republic and early empire and considers the history of archaeological and art historical methods and the romantic visions of Pompeii in art, theatre, and film up to the present.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
B. Bergmann
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

ARTH-290TF Issues in Art History: 'Textiles and Fashion in Africa and the African Diaspora'

Not Scheduled for This Year

By examining textile production (both hand weaving and industrial) and fashion (both streetwear and haute couture), this class investigates questions around cultural exchange, industrialization, and globalization. Students will gain knowledge about the flexibility of taxonomies of art, and they will learn basic analyses of textiles, dress, and fashion as they relate to African and African Diasporic cultures. Among the topics we study: Kente cloth and nationalism; waxprint cloth and globalization; Hip hop music and global fashion; and African fashion and haute couture.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Gilvin
Credits: 4
ARTH-295  Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-4
Course can be repeated for credit.

ARTH-300  Seminar Seminar:

ARTH-300CR  Seminar: 'Critical Approaches to Art Historical Study'
Not Scheduled for This Year
Intended as a kind of 'boot camp' for Art History majors, this course gives a major overview of the field, its methods, and its professional possibilities. Students will design their own research projects, conceptualize exhibitions, and hear from professionals working in various sectors of the art world. They will hone their research, writing, and speaking skills, while learning what it means to interpret art through lenses such as formalism, Marxism, gender, and postcolonialism. Students will also write applications for internships, jobs, and graduate programs--the goal being to consider how the art history skills they have acquired as undergraduates can translate into life after college, in the art world and beyond.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
J. Maier
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in Art History.
Credits: 4

ARTH-301  Topics in Art History

ARTH-301AD  Topics in Art History: 'Contemporary Art of Africa and the African Diaspora'
Not Scheduled for This Year
African and African Diasporic artists recently have achieved unprecedented acclaim in the most august institutions and trendiest art fairs in contemporary art. This course examines the complex and global histories of both 'overnight sensations' and artists still unknown in global art circuits. The course examines arts education in Africa, African nationalism, the Black Arts Movement, Pan-Africanism, anti-Apartheid struggles, and the postcolonial theoretical and curatorial interventions of the 1990s and 2000s. Writing assignments will relate to a temporary exhibition of contemporary art from Africa at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Gilvin
Prereq: 8 credits in Art History.
Credits: 4

ARTH-302  Great Cities

ARTH-302PA  Great Cities: 'Reimagining Paris'
Not Scheduled for This Year
By 1300 Paris was the largest city in Europe, the royal capital of France, home to a brilliant university, and a thriving commercial hub. This seminar investigates the city through its surviving buildings, paintings, graphic images, maps, and literature. Using digital tools we will reconstruct key lost monuments in a process that casts participants in the role of builder, that demands careful evaluation of fragmentary evidence and that encourages creative imagination informed by art and architectural history.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Davis
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in Art History, Computer Science, or Medieval Studies.
Credits: 4

ARTH-310  Seminar in Ancient Art

ARTH-310CA  Seminar in Ancient Art: 'The Lure of the Past: Collecting Antiquity'
Not Scheduled for This Year
The seminar studies the collecting and display of Greek and Roman objects from antiquity to the present. We will look at current and past controversies about plunder and cultural patrimony. Students will engage in firsthand study of coins, vases, statues, portraits, frescoes, and mosaics and conduct advanced research on their original functions and contexts. Trips to museum collections will offer opportunities to assess installations of ancient objects in modern settings.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
B. Bergmann
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: Courses in Art History, Classics, or Ancient History.
Credits: 4

ARTH-310FP  Seminar in Ancient Art: 'Female Portraits'
Not Scheduled for This Year
The seminar investigates likenesses of women from ancient Greece and Rome. Facial features, body language, hair and clothing will be studied with reference to contemporary social customs, theories of character and beauty, medical treatises, beliefs in deity and in the afterlife. Special attention will go to original objects in the Mount Holyoke Art Museum, including marble portraits and coins depicting classical queens and empresses.
Crosslisted as: Gender Studies 333FP
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
B. Bergmann
Instructor permission required.
Prereq: Prior courses in art history, classics, or ancient history.
Credits: 4

ARTH-310LM  Seminar in Ancient Art: 'Love and Metamorphosis'
Fall
The course examines the most popular mythical love tales in classical art and their reception since the Renaissance. The aim of the course is to acquaint students with visual modes of storytelling and compare them with narratives in literature and in (records of) performance.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
B. Bergmann
Prereq: Courses in Art History, Classics, or Ancient History.
Credits: 4

ARTH-310VE  Seminar in Ancient Art: 'The Unearthed Cities of Vesuvius'
Not Scheduled for This Year
Life on the Bay of Naples came to an abrupt halt in 79, when Vesuvius erupted, preserving surrounding cities and villas with lava and ash. The rediscovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum since the eighteenth century had significant impact upon European art and literature. The seminar examines the surviving environment and artifacts created to Roman tastes in the late republic and early empire. It considers the history of archaeological and art historical methods and the romantic visions of art, theatre, and film up to the present. One highlight will be a visit the Pompeii exhibition at the National Gallery in Washington, DC.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
B. Bergmann
Prereq: Courses in Art History, Classics, or Ancient History.
Credits: 4
ARTH-320  Seminar in Medieval Art

ARTH-332  Seminar in Baroque Art

ARTH-340  Seminar in 19th Century Art

ARTH-342  Seminar in Twentieth-Century Art

ARTH-342WH  Seminar in Twentieth-Century Art: 'Walker Evans and Henri Cartier-Bresson'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar explores the careers of two towering figures in the history of photography. Although they were contemporaries, Evans and Cartier-Bresson developed ideas about camerawork that couldn’t have been more different. Among other topics, we will explore the tensions between art, documentary, and photojournalism; street photography; the vernacular; the ‘decisive moment,’ and more.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Lee
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: One 200-level course in Art History.
Credits: 4

ARTH-350  Seminar in American Art

ARTH-350FW  Seminar in American Art: 'The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright'
Spring
This seminar will explore Frank Lloyd Wright’s 60-year career in architecture. We will pay particular attention to ways in which he handled form, space, and structure to frame human activity and to create a modern American style. We will also explore the social implications of Wright’s approach to domestic design and community planning.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Davis
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in art history, architectural studies, or American studies.
Credits: 4

ARTH-350GA  Seminar in American Art: 'The Gilded Age'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course examines aspects of American art and culture from the Civil War to the turn of the twentieth century. Classes will be thematic, and art will be linked up with ideas, trends, events, and novels of the period. Among the themes to be treated are: naturalism, masculinity, nervousness, street culture, and reform. Key artists include Sargent, Eakins, Homer, Bellows, and Sloan.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
P. Staiti
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: Art History 250.
Credits: 4

ARTH-360  Seminar in Asian Art

ARTH-360BC  Seminar in Asian Art: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'
Fall
How are we to respond to Indian popular film, which is notorious for its distracting song and dance numbers, meandering story line, and visually overblown spectacles? This seminar will develop historical and theoretical approaches to Indian films as what scholar Lalitha Gopalan calls a ‘constellation of interruptions.’ Students will examine feature films in class, write critical papers on scholarly essays, and pursue independent research projects on various aspects of Indian film.
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 370BC, Asian Studies 360BC
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Sinha
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits from Art History or Film Studies.
Credits: 4

ARTH-360CG  Seminar in Asian Art: 'Curating Global Contemporary Art'
Spring
Contemporary art belongs to a global exchange of ideas, requiring models for understanding its value beyond countries of origin. Museums and galleries regularly showcase artworks from different continents to signal historical interconnections. The course explores the challenges of curating contemporary art. We will study existing curatorial practices, and examine the role of small exhibitions as well as large international art fairs in creating an interlinked, international art community. We will work closely with the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, and develop exhibition strategies to foreground the global aspect of contemporary art.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
A. Sinha
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits from Art History.
Credits: 4

ARTH-391  Research Seminar in Art History and Architectural Studies
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar explores practical issues in doing advanced research in art history and architectural studies. Depending on student projects, activities could include reading primary sources, critical assessment of texts and archival materials, use of library and digital resources, and visual analysis. Students have an opportunity to think about how to organize research into a thesis, or how to make sense of research and internship experience off-campus or during study abroad.
Crosslisted as: Architectural Studies 391
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
A. Lee
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: Jr, Sr, 8 credits in Art History.
Credits: 4

ARTH-395  Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-8
Course can be repeated for credit.