Undergraduate art history courses are open to all UO students. In addition to specialized upper-division courses, the department offers a wide range of courses that fulfill general-education requirements. Art history majors should refer to the distribution area(s) listed for completing the upper division distribution requirement.

Course dates/times may be subject to change, please check the UO Class Schedule for the most up-to-date information.

ARH 206 History of Western Art III
Cheng | T,R | 16:00-17:20

This course is the last component of the 200-level sequence of survey courses in western art. It offers a broad introduction to visual arts in the western world (primarily Europe and the Americas) from 1600 to the present in their respective historical contexts. This course prepares students for upper-division courses in art history. All those interested in broadening their knowledge of western art are welcome. Students with no previous experience in art history courses will learn how to develop skills in critically analyzing works of art.

Gen Ed Group(s): A&L

ARH 210 Contemporary Asian Art, Architecture & Film
Lin | M,W | 12:00-13:20

This course introduces a variety of projects spanning the diverse cultures of China, Japan, Korea, and India, while considering outsider representations of the “Asian imaginary.” Learn to analyze key artworks, exhibitions, cutting edge buildings, urban developments, and experimental and popular films from across Asia.

Gen Ed Group(s): A&L, IC

ARH 327 Medieval Art
Hutterer | M,W | 10:00-11:20

This course surveys medieval art in western Europe from the 5th to 15th centuries. We will consider a wide variety of media from luxurious manuscripts produced for kings and queens to monumental stained-glass windows that bedazzled soaring cathedrals within their social, political, and cultural contexts.

Gen Ed Group(s): A&L
Distribution area(s): Medieval
The Italian Renaissance was an astonishingly rich period of art production. Scientific and cultural developments (along with favorable economic conditions and a stimulating political climate) spurred the growth of a self-consciously new style. Balancing idealism with realism, the painters and sculptors of the period considered their art as the revival of classical antiquity, and themselves as the emulators and even the rivals of the ancients. Following a chronological and geographic organization, this course surveys the major stylistic movements from roughly 1300 to 1570.

Distribution area(s): Early Modern

This course in an introductory survey of art in the West since 1945. It will address the ambitions and contexts of Abstract Expressionism, postwar European painting, Happenings, Fluxus, Situationism, Pop Art, Minimalism, Conceptual Art, Performance Art, Video Art, New Media Art, and more.

Gen Ed Group(s): A&L, IP
Distribution area(s): Modern/Contemporary

This course introduces students to the histories and theories of major modern and contemporary design developments in the realms of architecture and urbanism, products and advertising, technology, and fashion.

Gen Ed Group(s): A&L
Distribution area(s): Modern/Contemporary

This course investigates the visual culture that is associated with ancient Greek sports, paying special attention to athletic and aesthetic experiences as they related to gender, ethnicity, status, and region.

Distribution area(s): Ancient
ARH 399 Colonial Latin American Art
Burdette | M,W | 12:00-1:20

This course examines how art and architecture helped to construct Spanish colonialism in the Americas, covering the roughly three hundred years of artistic production between 1492 and the Latin American independence movements of the early 1800’s.

Distribution area(s): Early Modern

ARH 399 Art of the Enlightenment (18th Century European Art)
Amstutz | T,R | 14:00-15:20

The course explores art and culture of the European Enlightenment. Lectures will be thematic and will cover major stylistic movements, including rococo, chinoiserie, genre painting, neoclassicism, and romanticism, and topics such as the birth of the museum, the industrial and political revolutions of the age, colonialism and empire, gender, and science and technology.

Distribution area(s): Early Modern, Modern/Contemporary

ARH 399 Making: History, Media, Technique
Amstutz & Liu | T,R | 9:00-11:50

This course offers an introduction to making through both history and practice. Students will build a foundation for the study of art and art history through the studio practice of making objects, alongside lectures on the history of different media, readings, and close looking sessions at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art that teach them to distinguish between different historical practices. Historical media and techniques introduced will include watercolor, tempera, and oil painting, relief, intaglio, and planographic printmaking, paper-making, drawing in graphite, charcoal, and pastel, early forms of photography, and mold-making.

Distribution area(s): Modern/Contemporary

ARH 407/507 Greek Sculpture in Cities and Landscapes
Seaman | F | 10:00-12:50

This course explores the urban and rural environments of real and imagined ancient Greek sculpture.

Distribution area(s): Ancient
ARH 407/507 Objects of Empire
Burdette  |  M  |  14:30-17:20

During the so-called “Age of Exploration” (1400s-1700s) a system of maritime exchange connected the Atlantic world (Europe, Africa, and the Americas) with Asia. This class examines the objects that circulated through these early routes of conquest, exchange and evangelization (Aztec feather arts, West African ivory carvings, Chinese porcelain, to name a few), using an object-based approach to understanding the dynamics of early globalization and European colonialism.

Distribution area(s): Early Modern

ARH 407/507 Art, Work & Play
Cheng  |  W  |  15:00-17:50

Is art-making work or play? In this seminar, we will explore the curious position of art between work and play through key theoretical texts from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. We will try to understand arguments for both sides by eminent theorists and artists in the modern and contemporary era.

Distribution area(s): Modern/Contemporary

ARH 410/510 20th Century Architecture
Eggener  |  T,R  |  10:00-11:20

This course will examine modernist architectural discourse—including buildings and design, landscape and urban planning, unbuilt projects and writings, education and image-making, policy and polemics—from roughly 1885 to 1965. Emphasis will be placed on meanings and manifestations of architectural modernity as these emerged and evolved in Europe, the Americas, and around the world.

Distribution area(s): Modern/Contemporary

ARH 607 Seminar: Frames and Boundaries
Hutterer  |  T  |  14:00-16:50

This seminar considers the long and loaded histories of art as political tool, mode of resistance, and object of protest. Graduate students examine critical art examples from ancient times to the present vis-à-vis particular socio-political circumstances and theories of art and art history.