Major/Minor Areas and Distribution Requirement

MAJOR/MINOR AREAS

1.26 Defining the Major Field: Normally, you'll define a major and minor field in accord with the following list.

Western:

- Ancient: The art, architecture, and material culture of Greece and Rome, Bronze Age to 330 CE
- Medieval: The art, architecture, and material culture of Europe and the Mediterranean, 300 C.E. to 1500 CE
- Early Modern: Art, architecture, and material culture with primary focus on Europe from 1300 to 1750 CE
- Modern/Contemporary: The art, architecture, and material culture of Europe from 1750 to the present
- American: The art, architecture, and material culture of North America

Asian

Chinese:

- Pre-Imperial Period: The art, architecture, and material culture of pre-historic to Qin dynasty, ca. 5000 to 221 BCE
- Early Imperial Period: The art, architecture, and material culture of Qin to Tang dynasty, 221 BCE to 907 CE
- Middle Imperial Period: The art, architecture, and material culture of five Dynasties to Yuan dynasty, 907 to 1368
- Late Imperial and Modern Period: The art, architecture, and material culture of Ming dynasty to the present, 1368 to present

Japanese:

- Early Japanese: The art, architecture, and material culture of Japan, to 1200 CE
- Medieval Japanese: The art, architecture, and material culture of Japan, 1200 to 1600 CE
- Later Japanese: The art, architecture, and material culture of Japan, 1600 to present

Islamic:

- Early Islamic: The art, architecture, and material culture of the Islamic lands, 632 to 1100 CE
- Middle Islamic: The art, architecture, and material culture of the Islamic lands, 1100 to 1500 CE
- Early Modern Islamic: The art, architecture, and material culture of the Islamic lands, 1500 to 1900 CE
- Modern Islamic: The art, architecture, and material culture of the Islamic lands, and of artists from those lands in global diaspora, 1900 to the present

Latin America:

- Pre-Columbian: The art, architecture, and material culture of the Americas, to ca. 1500 CE
- Colonial: The art, architecture, and material culture of Latin America and the Caribbean, ca. 1500 to the 1820s CE
- Modern: The art, architecture, and material culture of Latin America and the Caribbean, and of artists from those lands in global diaspora, 1820s to present

African:

- The art, architecture, and material culture of Africa and the African diaspora

Historiography, Theory, and Criticism:

- Literature on art and representation, its philosophical traditions and historical contexts

1.27 Defining the Minor Field: Give careful thought to the selection of a minor field and discuss it with your faculty advisor. Ideally, it should intersect with the interests you pursue in your major field, but also provide breadth in your perspectives. It may be important, too, for establishing the attractive profile you will want to present as a job candidate.

The minor field may be drawn from the list of major fields or may be a subsection of a large major field. For example, someone majoring in modern painting might minor in photography and film or in architecture; someone majoring in Buddhist art might minor in European medieval art.

For the minor field of study, you may elect to do an outside minor, that is, a minor in another department or departments. Normally, the outside minor complements the major by providing additional study in the period, area, and civilization of choice. Careful attention should be given to the composition of the outside minor in consultation with your advisors. One of the courses in the minor field may also count toward the distribution requirement.

DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT

1.28 Distribution Requirement: The distribution requirement is designed to ensure that you become familiar with different methods and areas of art history. All students are required to take 2 courses outside of their primary field (these must be selected in consultation with the advisor). One of the courses in the minor field may also count toward the distribution requirement.

If you want to meet a distribution requirement with a course that spans multiple fields (i.e. temporally, geographically, culturally, etc.), you may do so by writing a paper within that course on a topic that is clearly outside your primary field (or art historical “comfort zone”). The point is to gain familiarity and experience with material outside your area.