Courses

The Department offers three different kinds of courses: 100-level, 200-/300-level, and 400-level. For examples of recently offered Art History courses, see our departmental website.

Faculty teach three types of formal courses:

- **Undergraduate courses at an introductory level (100-level).** There is no prerequisite for these courses. They satisfy the University's undergraduate or general education, requirement. They may also be taken by a few students majoring or minoring in art history. There are three categories:
  - (1) survey lecture courses, numbered 14000 through 16999, generally have 25 (but up to 65). They are taught lecture-style, with a weekly discussion section taught by a graduate student Course Assistant. The Course Assistant also helps evaluate and comment on assignments.
  - (2) art-in-context courses, numbered 17000 through 18999, are capped at 18 students. They are taught discussion-style, spotlighting a particular period and/or area of Art History. They are intended to introduce students to visual analysis and to the kinds of questions and evidence art historians work with through examination of a limited topic and body of works considered in historical context. A Writing Intern helps evaluate and comment on papers and runs two or three sets of small-group writing seminars during the quarter.
  - (3) Art History 10100, which is the same size and has the same aims and pedagogical style as the art-in-context courses, but covers a greater range of periods and cultures. Each section of 10100 has a different instructor who designs his version of the syllabus by selecting from a portfolio of examples and materials compiled by different faculty members for shared use, available on Chalk. If he wishes, he may add a one- to two-week module of his own design. This course also has a Writing Intern. Faculty usually teach two courses at this level per year.

- **Courses for advanced undergraduates and graduate students** (has both a 200-level course number, for undergrads, and a 300-level course number, for grad students). These are typically capped at 25 and often run smaller. The standard prerequisite for undergraduates is at least one prior course in art history or permission of the instructor. The graduate students may come from the department, other university departments, and the University's MA Program in the Humanities (MAPH), a one year tuition-charging program whose students vary a lot in capability and preparation but may be excellent. These courses are assumed not to require as much intensive research from the graduate students as a graduate seminar. Faculty may require different lengths for final papers according to the students' standings (i.e., 8-10 pages from undergrads, 15-20 for grad students). No graduate student assistant. Faculty usually teach one of these per year.

- **Graduate seminars** (400-level). These may run to 15 or so but are often quite small, 5 or fewer, and typically meet once a week. You may assign prerequisites, such as languages, but be cautious at first about this so as not to exclude interested students before you get to know your likely range of audience. Again, the graduate students may come from the department, other departments, and the MAPH program. These usually, but not necessarily, require students to write a research paper, generally around 20 pages, which the students may present orally in a short version toward the end of the quarter. Sometimes the course materials and aims lend themselves to a different kind of student work. No graduate student assistant. Faculty usually teach one of these per year.

Examples of descriptions for the combined undergraduate/graduate courses and the graduate seminars can be found on the department website.

The undergraduate courses have both generic and specific descriptions, except for 10100, which has only a generic description. The generics follow, and examples of specific descriptions are also found on our department website at http://arthistory.uchicago.edu/courses

14000 through 16999. Art Surveys. For nonmajors, any ARTH 14000 through 16999 course meets the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts. The major monuments and masterpieces of world painting, sculpture, and architecture are studied as examples of humankind's achievements in the visual arts. Individual objects are analyzed in detail and interpreted in light of society's varied needs. While changes in form, style, and function are emphasized, an attempt is also made to understand the development of unique and continuous traditions of visual imagery throughout world civilization. Courses focus on broad regional and chronological categories.

17000 through 18999. Art in Context. For nonmajors, any ARTH 17000 through 18999 course meets the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts. Courses in this series investigate basic methods of art historical analysis and apply them to significant works of art studied within definite contexts. Works of art are placed in their intellectual, historical, cultural, or more purely artistic settings in an effort to indicate the origins of their specific achievements. An informed appreciation of the particular solutions offered by single works and the careers of individual artists emerges from the detailed study of classic problems within Western and non-Western art.

10100. Introduction to Art. For nonmajors, this course meets the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts. This course seeks to develop skills in perception, comprehension, and appreciation when dealing with a variety of visual art forms. It encourages the close analysis of visual materials, explores the range of questions and methods appropriate to the explication of a given work of art, and examines the intellectual structures basic to the systematic study of art. Most important, the course encourages the understanding of art as a visual language and aims to foster in students the ability to translate this understanding into verbal expression, both oral and written. Examples draw on local collections.

For information about the roles of the graduate student course assistants and writing interns assigned to introductory-level undergraduate courses, see the department handbook, sections 3.2 and 3.3. http://arthistory.uchicago.edu/graduate/department-handbook#3-2
http://arthistory.uchicago.edu/graduate/department-handbook#3-3