UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

In Clark’s art history program, students study painters, architects, sculptors, and designers from Ancient Greece to the contemporary world. Students learn not only to analyze works of art, but also to ask larger questions about the place and role of the arts in human history: how does the design of a building affect human interactions? how do artists navigate the political pressures of their historical moment? how can a painting be interpreted as an expression of the society in which it was made?

All of the courses in the art history program take you outside of the classroom, whether it is to examine paintings at the Worcester Art Museum, study sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, analyze the modern architecture of Walter Gropius’s house in Lincoln, Massachusetts, or excavate an ancient Roman temple in Rough Cilicia, Turkey.

And these courses don’t simply take you out of the classroom – they also ask you to turn your art history skills to use in our world.

• Students in Prof. Garton’s class used their research on Renaissance portraiture to curate the exhibition Bound by Fashion at the Worcester Art Museum.

• Students who have accompanied Prof. Townsend on his archeological dig in Turkey have used their training in field drawings to further the analytical study of the site.

• Students in Prof. Wilson’s class used their research in the University archives to write a history of the campus architecture.

• Most important, every senior art history major takes the capstone seminar (ARTH 210), where you learn to lead discussion sections for the introductory survey. Here, your art history knowledge becomes the foundation for your ability to share with others the excitement of looking at art.

Some art history majors will choose to prepare for careers that may require post-graduate training, such as journalism, arts administration, architecture, art education, or museum curatorial work. The study of art history will provide you with the skills of intellectual inquiry, persuasive writing, and analysis—skills you will be able to apply to any career.

Faculty
John Garton, Ph.D., Associate Professor: Renaissance painting and architecture, Latin American art
Rhys Townsend, Ph.D., Professor: Classical art and archaeology, especially Greek architecture; material culture
Kristina Wilson, Ph.D., Associate Professor: 19th and 20th century art, modern design and architecture, contemporary art

Internships and Study Abroad
Students in the art history program have opportunities for a variety of internships. Every year several students intern at the Schiltkamp Gallery in the Traina Center, where they prepare the gallery and install several exhibitions over the course of the academic year. In addition, students intern at local organizations such as the Worcester Art Museum, ARTSWorcester, the Fitchburg Art Museum, and the Fruitlands Museum.

In addition, there are opportunities for students to apply for funding to support educational projects away from Clark during the summer, including the Sara Bickman Music and Arts Summer Internship and the Steinbrecher Fellowship.

There are many excellent study abroad programs for students in the art history program. The faculty strongly encourages students to study abroad, because there is no better way to learn art history than to have the opportunity to see works and buildings first-hand. Among the programs students have participated in recently are: University of East Anglia, London Internship Program, Siena Institute of Art, and the Burren College of Art.
The Art History Major

The art history major requires 14 courses, of which 10 are in art history:

I. Art History courses:
   A. 2 Core Courses:
      - ARTH 010 - From the Stone Age to Our Age: Monuments and Masterpieces of Western Art (or equivalent course or superior advanced-placement performance)
      - ARTH 210 - The Art of Art History: Teaching and Methods
   B. 8 Area Courses:
      Courses are offered in the following areas: Ancient; Renaissance/Baroque; Modern; Non-Western. Students must take at least 2 courses in each of these areas, and a total of 3 courses must be at the 200 level.

II. Related courses:
4 courses in the Visual and Performing Arts Department, of which 2 must be in studio art.

Double Major in Art History: Because of its interdisciplinary nature, students may wish to double major in art history and another discipline. In such cases, the number of required courses is reduced to 11, normally consisting of 8 art history courses (010, 210, and 6 area courses) and 3 Visual and Performing Arts courses (at least 1 in Studio Art)

The Art History minor requires 6 courses in art history: ARTH 010 and 5 Area courses, including at least 2 at the 200 level.

Sample courses in Art History

ARTH 010 - From the Stone Age to Our Age: Monuments and Masterpieces of Western Art
ARTH 106 - Introduction to Archaeology
ARTH 109 - Greek Myth & the Classical Ideal in Art
ARTH 111 - Roman Art and Architecture
ARTH 121 - Italian Art from Giotto to Botticelli
ARTH 125 - Art in the Age of Michelangelo
ARTH 131 - Baroque Art in the Age of Bernini
ARTH 140 - Modern Art: 19th Century
ARTH 143 - Art from 1940 to 1970
ARTH 144 - Art Since 1970
ARTH 158 - Art and the City of Worcester
ARTH 159 - Latin-American Art
ARTH 210 - The Art of Art History: Teaching and Methods
ARTH 213 - The Temple Builders: Architecture in Ancient Greece
ARTH 216 - Architecture and Democracy
ARTH 231 - Leonardo da Vinci
ARTH 233 - Tropical Baroque: The Arts of Colonial Latin America
ARTH 243 - Design in the 20th Century: Arts & Crafts to Ikea
ARTH 245 - Urban Art and Society in Jazz Age New York