Fall 2015 Courses in Art History

ARTH 282
Introduction to World Art

Multiple sections. Please see MyNIU for meeting days and times.

An introduction to the ways in which human civilization has imagined itself and expressed its vision of the world over time and in different cultural contexts across the globe, this course also considers how these arts continue to be interpreted by contemporary scholars and audiences.

This course satisfies in part the Creativity and Critical Analysis Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. This course is required for all students in the School of Art and Design.

ARTH 292
Art and Design Since 1900

MWF 10-10:50
Prof. B. Jaffee, R. Houze, S. Evans

A wide-ranging survey of artworks and practices that have challenged the artistic status quo while responding to the diverse economic, political, and social contexts of the recent past and present.

This course satisfies in part the Creativity and Critical Analysis Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. This course is required for all students in the School of Art and Design.

ARTH 320A/520A
Studies in Medieval Art: Early Christian and Early Byzantine Art

TuTh 11-12:15
Prof. A. van Dijk

This course charts the role of art and architecture in one of the great cultural transformations in history. Between the fourth and the ninth centuries A.D. the pagan world of classical antiquity metamorphosed into the Christian middle ages. We will examine the origins of Christian art and architecture in late antiquity and trace its development in Rome, Ravenna, and Constantinople. Our exploration will address such issues as: the relationship between the first Christian art and the non-Christian traditions that preceded and, for a time, co-existed with it; continuity and change in the imperial image; the changing physical shape of the church and its pictorial decoration; and the impact of literary and devotional traditions on the creation of images.

ARTH 320A satisfies in part the Society and Culture Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. ARTH 520A by permit only.
ARTh 330A/530A
Studies in Early Modern European Art: Early Italian Renaissance Art
TuTh 12:30-1:45 Prof. M. Quinlan
A group of intellectual artists in fifteenth-century Italy – Leonardo da Vinci being the most famous among them – would not have understood the distinctions we make between Nature and Art. Leonardo and these other artists were pursuing knowledge about life in its every aspect. This meant a study of Nature in the ways that we now consider science. The art and architecture that they created was a communicative response to their new understandings, which have influenced the visual arts to the present day. This course will examine the intellectual foundations that drove this creativity, and consider ways that their achievements are still current in architecture, painting, film, cartography, biology, and visual psychology.
ARTh 330A satisfies in part the Society and Culture Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. ARTh 530A by permit only.

ARTh 340B/540B
Studies in Modern and American Art: Modernism in European and American Art
Tu 6-8:40 Prof. B. Jaffee
This course surveys major developments in twentieth century art. The discussion of specific artistic trends will be framed by an examination of the historical context, social milieu, and the changing conditions of art’s production and distribution. ARTh 340B satisfies in part the Creativity and Critical Analysis Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. ARTh 540B by permit only.

ARTh 360B/560B
Studies in Design: From Print Culture to New Media
MW 2-3:15 Prof. R. Houze
This course will examine topics in the history of graphic design, illustration, and new media from the Industrial Revolution to the present. Topics will include the relationship between fine art and design, the significance of history to the field of design, and the contextualization of visual communication within the more general fields of design and media studies. We will consider a number of theoretical approaches in texts by nineteenth and twentieth-century designers as well as by contemporary design critics and historians.
ARTh 360B satisfies in part the Society and Culture Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. ARTh 560B by permit only.

ARTh 370C/570C
Studies in Asian Art: South and Southeast Asian Art
Th 6-8:40 Prof. R. Raymond
The general objective of this course is to introduce you to the ancient culture of India and its influence in Southeast Asia through the lens of the arts. Organized around a chronological and thematic framework (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Animism, etc.), this course is a survey of the cultural contexts of visual arts traditions of the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
ARTh 370C satisfies in part the Society and Culture Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. ARTh 570C by permit only.
ARTH 456/656  
**Topics in Art History: Design**  
**The Architectural Village from Open-Air Museum to National Park**  
*MW 3:30-4:45  Prof. R. Houze*
Architectural villages, arrangements of traditional buildings in park-like settings, were a popular and regular feature of the great international exhibitions of the 19th century. In Europe, this popular tradition evolved into the construction of ethnographic "open-air museums," first in Sweden, then in many other parts of Europe. In the United States however, the preservation of cultural tradition took on different forms. This course will explore the use of "rustic" hotels, lodges, visitor centers, and other structures in the US National Parks in the early twentieth century, and their relationship to the architectural villages of the great world's fairs.

ARTH 457/657  
**Topics in Art History: Asian Art**  
**Exploring Japanese Woodblock Prints**  
*TuTh 11-12:15  Prof. H. Nagata*
This course will introduce students to the tradition of multicolor woodblock prints (also known as *ukiyo-e*) that were created during the Edo period (17-19th c.) and encourage independent research of particular themes and genres within the tradition. It will be structured like a seminar for exploring such themes as the visualization of the pleasure quarters, glamorization of kabuki actors, the feminine mystique of courtesans, dueling government censorship, distinctions of high and low art, ghosts and demons, and the nature of parody and visual entertainment.

ARTH 494  
**Art History Undergraduate Seminar**  
**Identities in Art: Theories, Practices, and Politics**  
*M 12-2:40  Prof. S. Evans*
In this seminar we will examine the ways that the identities of the artist and of her/his subjects is constructed and questioned in specific modern and contemporary contexts with special emphases on feminist art and on the current critique of identity politics.  
*This course is required for Art History majors. Pre-requisite: ARTH 486*

**COURSES TAKEN INDEPENDENTLY**  
*Students must obtain permit from faculty supervisor.*

**ARTH 499H**  
Senior Thesis in Art History

**ARTH 699A/699B**  
Art History Thesis/Master’s Research Project

**ARTH 703**  
Independent Study in Art History
COURSES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

ARTH 282-00H3
Introduction to World Art

TuTh 9:30-10:45    Profs. A. van Dijk, H. Nagata, M. Quinlan

An introduction to the ways in which human civilization has imagined itself and expressed its vision of the world over time and in different cultural contexts across the globe, this course also considers how these arts continue to be interpreted by contemporary scholars and audiences.

This course satisfies in part the Creativity and Critical Analysis Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. This is a stand-alone honors section open to University Honors students only.

ARTH 292-00H1, 292-0DH1
Art and Design Since 1900


A wide-ranging survey of artworks and practices that have challenged the artistic status quo while responding to the diverse economic, political, and social contexts of the recent past and present.

This course satisfies in part the Creativity and Critical Analysis Knowledge Domain Studies requirement of the NIU Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies and/or the General Education Distributive Studies Area Requirement for the Humanities and the Arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. This is an honors mini-section with a discussion section open to University Honors students only.