

History of Art and Architecture

The concentration in History of Art and Architecture (HIAA) introduces students to the history of art, architecture, and material culture. Students in HIAA explore a wide range of artistic traditions from around the world, and develop the skills necessary to analyze artworks, artifacts, and the built environment dating from the paleolithic to the contemporary. Concentrators are encouraged to develop familiarity with the distinctive periods, regions, sub-fields, and theoretical approaches that collectively inform the discipline, while at the same time developing an individualized program. Concentrators will receive essential training in perceptual, historical, and critical analysis.

History of Art and Architecture Requirements

To complete the concentration, you will be expected to take a minimum of ten courses. Our goal in setting out these requirements is to welcome students into a lively and diverse department that also shares a cohesive and strong commitment to the field. We as a faculty want students to cultivate their special interests and also to venture into areas that may not be so familiar but that will open new and exciting possibilities for them. Ten courses are only the minimum requirement. Beyond that students are encouraged to take courses at RISD, participate in study abroad programs, and take courses in other Brown departments. As we are a truly interdisciplinary department, you will also find that our faculty collaborates with members of other departments to teach courses that bring together the strengths of different disciplines. We encourage both experimentation and concentration.

Since the history of art and architecture addresses issues of practice within specific historical contexts, concentrators are encouraged to take at least one studio art course. Courses in history also train students in methods and approaches that are highly relevant to the history of art and architecture. Study abroad can be a valuable enrichment of the academic work available on campus, in that it offers opportunities for first-hand knowledge of works of art and monuments as well as providing exposure to foreign languages and cultures. Study abroad should be planned in consultation with the concentration advisor in order to make sure that coursework will relate meaningfully to the concentrators program of study.

5 Lecture Courses, numbered HIAA 0001–HIAA 0999. The courses should engage at least three different geographic regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe) and two different periods (Ancient-Medieval, Early Modern, Modern-Contemporary). Individual courses can be used to fulfill either the geographic or temporal breadth requirement, but not both. Courses tagged as “Multiple Regions” and “Multiple Periods” can be used to fulfill one geographic and one temporal breadth requirement, respectively.

Temporal Periods

Ancient/Medieval:

HIAA 0022	The Art of Enlightenment
HIAA 0024	Arts of Asia: Beginnings to 1300
HIAA 0032	Art and Architecture of the Roman Empire
HIAA 0322	The Arts of Religion and Ritual in the Ancient World

Early Modern:

HIAA 0063	Food and Art in the Early Modern World
HIAA 0660	Giotto to Watteau: Introduction to the Art of Europe from Renaissance to French Revolution

Modern/Contemporary:

HIAA 0070	Introduction to American Art: The 19th Century
HIAA 0072	Introduction to American Art: The Twentieth Century

HIAA 0075	Introduction to the History of Art: Modern Photography
HIAA 0077	Revolutions, Illusions, Impressions: A History of Nineteenth-Century Art
HIAA 0084	Postwar to Postmodernism: Art Since 1945
HIAA 0087	Contemporary Art
HIAA 0089	Contemporary Photography
HIAA 0090	The Other History of Modern Architecture
HIAA 0820	Art and Technology from Futurism to Hacktivism
HIAA 0850	Modern Architecture
HIAA 0860	Contemporary Architecture
HIAA 0861	City and Cinema
Multiple Periods:	
HIAA 0023	South Asian Art and Architecture
HIAA 0081	Architecture of the House Through Space and Time
HIAA 0770	Architecture and Urbanism of Africa
Geographic Regions:	
Africa:	
HIAA 0770	Architecture and Urbanism of Africa
Americas:	
HIAA 0070	Introduction to American Art: The 19th Century
HIAA 0072	Introduction to American Art: The Twentieth Century
HIAA 0089	Contemporary Photography
Asia:	
HIAA 0022	The Art of Enlightenment
HIAA 0023	South Asian Art and Architecture
Europe:	
HIAA 0032	Art and Architecture of the Roman Empire
HIAA 0075	Introduction to the History of Art: Modern Photography
HIAA 0077	Revolutions, Illusions, Impressions: A History of Nineteenth-Century Art
HIAA 0660	Giotto to Watteau: Introduction to the Art of Europe from Renaissance to French Revolution
Multiple Regions:	
HIAA 0041	The Architectures of Islam
HIAA 0081	Architecture of the House Through Space and Time
HIAA 0084	Postwar to Postmodernism: Art Since 1945
HIAA 0087	Contemporary Art
HIAA 0090	The Other History of Modern Architecture
HIAA 0322	The Arts of Religion and Ritual in the Ancient World
HIAA 0820	Art and Technology from Futurism to Hacktivism
HIAA 0850	Modern Architecture
HIAA 0860	Contemporary Architecture
3 Seminars, numbered HIAA 1000–HIAA 1931	
HIAA 1181	Prefabrication and Architecture
HIAA 1201	Brushwork: Chinese Painting in Time
HIAA 1202	Mountains and Waters: Art and Ecology in East Asia
HIAA 1212	The Pictured Text
HIAA 1213	The Bureaucracy of Hell: Envisioning Death in East Asian Art

HIAA 1305	Pre-Columbian Art + Architecture
HIAA 1307	Politics and Spectacle in the Arts of Ancient Rome
HIAA 1308	Arts of Memory in Ancient Rome
HIAA 1620	Arts Between Europe and the World: 1500-1700
HIAA 1720	The Art of Portraiture: Pre-Histories of the Selfie
HIAA 1771	Eclectic Arts in the Global 19th Century
HIAA 1810	Contemporary Art and Activism
HIAA 1811	Possible Futures: Art and the Social Network before the Internet (1950-1979)
HIAA 1820	Abstraction in Theory and Practice
HIAA 1822	Dada and Surrealism: Anarchy, Exile, Alterity
HIAA 1850G	Contemporary American Urbanism: City Design and Planning, 1945-2000
HIAA 1850H	Berlin: Architecture, Politics and Memory
HIAA 1880	Criticality and Modern Art
HIAA 1888	Exhibition as Medium
HIAA 1890G	Contemporary Art of Africa and the Diaspora
HIAA 1900	Museum Interpretation Practices
HIAA 1910A	Providence Architecture
HIAA 1930	The History and Methods of Art Historical Interpretation
HIAA 1931	Museums, Histories, Critiques

1 Elective: This can include courses taught in the department, cross-listed courses from other departments, or courses in other departments approved by the concentration advisor. 1

1 Capstone course. Capstone projects are required for all concentrators. The Capstone is intended to challenge you with an opportunity to synthesize at a high level of achievement the knowledge and understanding you have gained by concentrating in the History of Art and Architecture. Capstone projects embrace many possibilities. You can perfect a seminar paper in which you have developed a strong interest. You can participate in a graduate seminar to which the instructor has admitted you. You can develop work that you do as a museum or gallery intern. You might work on an archaeological excavation. You can participate in the Honors Program. Beyond these opportunities, the Department is open to other approaches. Capstones are often completed under the auspices of an independent study course. But a capstone may be completed under the umbrella of an existing course. All capstone's must be discussed with and approved by a faculty sponsor and your concentration advisor. 1

Total Credits 10

¹ A maximum of four credits may be allowed for courses taken at other universities (transfer credits or from study abroad) or courses on art historical subjects taken in other departments. No concentration credit will be granted for AP/IB/A-level scores.

Self-Assessment

All concentrators are required to write an essay when they file for the concentration that lays out what they expect to gain from the course of study they propose. All second-semester seniors will be required to write a final essay that takes measure of what they have learned from the concentration, including their capstone and other experiences relating to their study of the history of art and architecture. The self-assessment

should be submitted through ASK with a revised list of courses actually taken at least one month prior to graduation.

Honors

During the second semester of the junior year all concentrators will be invited to apply for admission to the Honors Program in History of Art and Architecture. The honors program is an opportunity for concentrators to mobilize what they have learned to make an original research contribution to the field.

Students wishing to write an honors thesis should have produced consistently excellent work and maintained a high level of achievement (i.e. a majority of "A" or "S with distinction" grades) in all concentration courses. It is advisable for them to have taken at least one seminar in the department and written a research paper before choosing to undertake a thesis. Acceptance into the Honors program depends on the persuasiveness of the thesis topic and the availability of relevant faculty to advise the thesis. No honors student may take more than four courses either semester of their senior year—with the honors seminar being considered one of the four courses. Students interested in honors who are expecting to graduate in the middle of the year should contact the concentration advisor no later than the beginning of their junior year.

During both fall and spring semesters you will participate in the monthly meetings of the Honors cohort, in which honors students in both HIAA concentrations share their work-in-progress with each other and with the faculty member who supervises the seminar. These monthly meetings, usually three per semester, are mandatory. Students must enroll in HIAA 1990 (Honors Thesis) in both semesters. Students are also expected to meet separately and regularly with their own thesis advisor.

Finished drafts of the thesis, which will generally be no more than 30–35 pages in length (exceptions to be determined in consultation with the instructor), not counting bibliography and visual materials, will be due to the advisor and second reader by March 1 of the Spring semester or by November 1 of the Fall semester if you plan on graduating in December. Comments will be returned to the students for final corrections at that point. There will be a public presentation of Honors work at the end of the Spring semester.