FALL 2017 Courses

AH105 Introductory Topics in Art History: Artist as Scientist.
This is a seminar-type course primarily to be offered as a FIG coordinating course. Topics will vary. Open to Freshmen. 3 cr. (Brisman | TR 9:30 – 10:45 | L170 Elvehjem Building)

AH202 History of Western Art II: From Renaissance to Contemporary.
Come explore the many reasons that art is produced and the vast array of forms it can take. AH202 draws on famous and iconic artworks by the likes of Michelangelo, Vermeer, Van Gogh, and Warhol to better understand individuals and their cultures--clothing, personal relationships, medicine, religious or social beliefs, scientific discoveries, or desires and taboos. The course essentially allows you to get to know people from other times and places: what motivated, inspired, awed, and frightened them? How did they live, eat, love, pray, and die?

Art History also emphasizes a range of skills highly valued by today’s employers, including communication (written and oral), research, critical thinking—and, most importantly, visual analysis. In a world saturated with images, being able to discern the ways they make meaning gives you an edge. Open to Freshmen. 4 cr. (Brenna Graham | TR 9:30 – 10:45 | L160 Elvehjem Building)

AH227 The Ends of Modernism.
This course considers the end of Modernist art as it gives way to what is called, problematically, contemporary art. While the term modern may generally mean what is vanguard or current, Modernism indicates a period of art (and the humanities) ranging from, arguably, 1880-1950. By considering its end, one can study four pivotal aspects of the movement: its origins, themes, and afterlives, as well as the art and histories that challenge its coherence. In this thematic survey, then, Modernism will emerge as a heterogeneous set of images and attendant discourses which, negatively or positively, continue to work within the contemporary artistic and cultural moment. Open to Freshmen. 4 cr. Comm B optional. (McClure | MW 2:30 – 3:45 | L160 Elvehjem Building)

AH241 Introduction to African Art and Architecture.
This course examines the rich heritage of African arts and architecture as they shape and have been shaped by the histories and cultural values (social, political, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic) of African peoples, both past and present, on the continent where humanity began. It includes an historical overview of selected artistic traditions from different parts of the continent from 26,000 BCE to the 21st century and thematic/cultural case studies: artists and aesthetics; textiles, decorative, and personal/body arts; architecture; and individual artists. Open to Freshmen. 3 cr. Cross-listed with Afro American Studies. (Drewal | MW 1:20 – 2:10 | L140 Elvehjem Building)
**AH264 Dimensions of Material Culture.**
This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of material culture studies. It is intended for students interested in any professional endeavor related to material culture, including careers in museums, galleries, historical societies, historic preservation organizations, and academic institutions. During the semester, students have varied opportunities to engage with and contemplate the material world to which people give meaning and which, in turn, influences their lives. Sessions combine in some way the following: presentations from faculty members and professionals who lecture on a phase of material culture related to his/her own scholarship or other professional work; discussion of foundational readings in the field; visits to collections and sites on campus and around Madison; discussion of readings assigned by visiting presenters or the professors; and exams and short papers that engage material culture topics. Open to freshmen. 4 cr. (Martin & Nelson | TR 1:00 – 2:15 | L150 Elvehjem Building)

**AH300 / Classics 300. Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece.**
Traditions from 1000 BC to 403 BC in architecture, painting, ceramics, sculpture and the minor arts. Requires Sophomore standing or consent of instr. Cross-listed with Classics. 3 cr. (Cahill | MWF 8:50 – 9:50 | L160 Elvehjem Building)

**AH355 History of Photography.**
This course offers an introduction to the history and theory of the diverse and pervasive field of photography from its origins in the desire to work with light and shadows to declarations of its death in the drive toward the digital. The course emphasizes that to understand the history of photography means exploring the range of photography’s social, political and cultural practices from the documentary to the selfie and Instagram, from the conventions of the photo I.D. and tactics of surveillance to the use of photography in avant-garde art practices. The readings for the course introduce you to the important critics who demonstrate how issues of class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and economic, historical, and geopolitical relations of power are inseparable from the historical study of the medium of photography -- its practice, dissemination, valuation, and interpretation. No prior knowledge of the history of photography or art history is assumed or required. Requires Sophomore standing & Art Hist. 202 or consent of instr. 3 cr. (Casid | TR 11:00 – 12:15 | L140 Elvehjem Building)
AH 372 Arts of Japan.
This course introduces students to the history and aesthetics of art in a wide range of media produced on the Japanese archipelago from prehistoric times to today. It explores the forms, materials, processes, functions, and meanings of selected works from a variety of contexts: prehistoric villages; early tombs with material links to the Korean Peninsula; the ancient imperial court, where distinctively “Japanese” forms of literature and allied arts emerged; Zen monasteries, where newer developments in Chinese culture were introduced to medieval Japan; tea ceremony circles, which subverted long-established aesthetic values; early modern cities, which were home to the floating world of visual and erotic pleasure; the emerging nation of Japan, in which diverse groups searched for an authentic modern identity; and the global spaces of contemporary art. Class participation is encouraged and rewarded. 3 cr. (Holly Rubalcava | MWF 11:00 – 11:50 | L150 Elvehjem Building)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Knowledge about a fascinating culture and its art
- Sharpened ability to perceive and interpret visual information and difference
- Improved critical reading skills Greater sophistication in writing

AH405 Cities and Sanctuaries of Ancient Greece.
Topics include urbanism in ancient Greece in theory and practice; the forms, technologies, patronage and use of buildings; the creation and conception of urban space and the organization of religious sites, dedications, and rituals. Requires Art Hist. 201, 300, 301, 302, Classics 300, or consent of instr. 3 cr. (Cahill | MWF 12:05 – 12:55 | L150 Elvehjem Building)

AH415 Image and Text in Medieval Manuscripts.
An advanced lecture course, covering specific aspects of Medieval art. Topics may include: “Death and the Afterlife in Medieval Art”; “Civic Art and Architecture and Public Space in Medieval Italy”; “Rome in the Middle Ages”; “Pilgrimage & the Cult of the Saints in Medieval & Byzantine Art.” Requires Junior standing & one Art History course at both the 200-level and 300-level, or consent of instr. 3 cr. (Dale | MW 2:30 – 3:45 | L150 Elvehjem Building)
**AH440 Art and Power in the Arab World.**
This course considers the use of art and architecture as an expression of power in the Arabic speaking world, from the seventh century to the present. Beginning with the establishment of the caliphate and ending with the arts of revolution following the Arab Spring, we will investigate the shifting role of art and architecture in the quest for political dominance. With a particular focus on the arts of Cairo, Baghdad, Cordoba, Mecca, Jerusalem, Damascus, and the modern Arabian Gulf, we will explore competing visions of power and sources of legitimacy, through the lens of artistic production.

Themes include the role of cultural heritage in political disputes; visual rhetoric of the caliphate; contemporary debates over the nature of medieval Islamic art and culture; conflict over holy spaces; artistic exchange between Europe and the Middle East. Incorporation of relevant current events in the Middle East will be a regular feature of class discussion.

Requires Sophomore standing or consent of instr. 3 cr. (Pruitt | TR 1:00 – 2:15 | L140 Elvehjem Building)

**AH 506 Curatorial Studies Exhibition Practice.**
This course will engage students in all aspects of the preparation of an exhibition for the Chazen Museum of Art or other exhibition spaces on campus. Students will help conceptualize the exhibition and its layout, research and interpret individual objects, prepare wall texts for the display and other materials published in print or online in conjunction with the exhibition. The specific topic will be different each time the course is taught. Requires Junior Standing and at least one previous course in Art History at 300-level or above. 3 cr. (Drewal | Mon. 4:30 – 6:30 | L166 Elvehjem Building)

**AH515/815 Proseminar in Medieval Art: Coexistence and Conflict in the Art and Architecture of Islamic Spain.**
This seminar considers the arts and architecture of Islamic Spain (711-1492). With a focus on the interrelationship of religious groups (Muslim, Christian, Jewish) in the formation of a distinctive Islamic art, we will investigate artistic production in the context of peaceful coexistence and violent conflict. We will then move to the reconquest of Muslim Spain by Christian rulers, examining the incorporation of Islamic forms in new, Christian spaces. We will conclude with an examination of the discourse on al-Andalus in contemporary political debates and popular culture in both the United States and Spain, from depictions in Game of Thrones to interpretations by ISIS and the Catholic Church. Requires Junior standing & consent of instr. 3 cr. (Pruitt | 4:30 – 6:30 | L170 Elvehjem Building)
AH563/AH863 Learning From Things: The History of Object-Based Study from the Enlightenment to the Present.
What are key ways of developing ideas, questions, and knowledge from material things? Borrowing methods from art history, history, anthropology, history of science, history of education, philosophy, English and other fields, students in this material culture course will explore ways of gleaning information from tangible things. With case studies including Renaissance cabinets of curiosities, historic object lessons, collections of taxidermy, and twentieth-first century museum pedagogy, students will explore histories of museums and collecting, a range of object-based epistemologies and methodologies, and new pedagogical possibilities for object study. Participants will visit the Chipstone Foundation in Milwaukee as well as several Madison-based collections. Each student will be expected to complete a focused research project over the course of the semester. 3 cr. (Carter | Wed. 2:30 – 4:30 | L166 Elvehjem Building)

AH601 Introduction to Museum Studies.
This curatorial practice class will examine historic ceramic vessels and their technologies, artistry, and meanings and create an exhibition at the Chazen Museum of Art in the spring of 2018. Specifically, it will highlight molded Victorian jugs, vessels that were some of the highest quality and most popular and ubiquitous forms of the mid-19th century. These objects cross several important areas of study, including Victorian art and design, ornament drawn from popular culture (heroic myth, literature, history, and botanica), and improving technologies of molding. Their designs were praised and critiqued in art and design journals and, at their best, reached some of the pinnacles of decorative art.

These vessels may be placed among other art and decorative arts found in the collections of the Chazen Museum. Jugs were one of man's earliest vessels, made in multiple media and found in diverse cultures and times. Iconic in use and form (with a handle, body, and spout) its meaning is nonetheless unstable. They were painted in early modern genre scenes that preached morality and as markers of simplicity in early depictions of humble abodes. Later, its iconic form worked as a fine subject for Cubist reinterpretation. At the same time, the humble form can be a masterpiece of color and design in the hands of master craftsmen. 3 cr. (Martin | Thurs. 4:30 – 6:30 | L166 Elvehjem Building)

AH701 Graduate Practicum in Art History: Bibliography, Historiography, Methods.
Intensive work in critical analysis, and research methods; introduction to the methods, and historiography of art history; orientation to source work in the Chazen collection and University libraries. Required methodology course for first-year graduate students in art history. Requires first year Art Hist. grad student status or consent of instr. 3 cr. (Brisman | Tues. 1:00 – 3:00 | L170 Elvehjem Building)
AH800 Seminar: Special Topics in Art History: Structures, Post-Structuralism, Art. Requires Graduate standing and consent of instr. 3 cr. (McClure | Mon. 4:15 – 6:15 | L170 Elvehjem Building)

AH 801 Historiography, Theory, and Methods in Visual Cultures. Prepares student for graduate work in the transdisciplinary study of Visual Cultures by building on the knowledge, theories, and methods that are fundamental to the discipline. It will develop skills in critical reading, research, analysis, writing, and oral presentation. Requires Graduate standing and consent of instr. 3 cr. (Casid | Tues. 4:00 – 6:00 | L170 Elvehjem Building)