

New Curriculum for Art and Art History

As a result of the 1992-93 assessment of its curriculum, the Department of Art and Art History has restructured its two programs. The proposed changes emphasize small, intensive courses for upper level students. This is to balance the large lecture Art History courses taught at the beginning and intermediate levels and to provide students in advanced Art courses with focused attention from their instructors. In addition, the Department has instituted a more formal advising program. Every Junior and Senior concentrator has been assigned a faculty advisor to monitor concentration and other graduation requirements. Students are required to see their advisor and will be counseled to follow recommended tracks of study tailored to their specific focus within the concentration. Also they will be encouraged to take courses outside the department to broaden their knowledge of other related disciplines to strengthen their concentration.

Another aspect of the assessment report focused on the content and frequency of certain courses both in terms of student needs and the interests of faculty. In Art History it was recognized that many of us do not teach courses in our research areas, thereby depriving students of important insights into specific methodologies and subject areas. The curricular changes for the Art History concentration reflect these needs. In Art, some faculty have restructured their programs to emphasize specific approaches to a medium or material. These will lead to advanced courses where students can develop their own preferred approach within the context of a small, intensive environment.

The Art And Art History curriculum offers an assortment of 3 and 4 credit courses. The latter are the norm for the Art History curriculum, while, except for a few advanced courses in Art, 3 credit courses are the rule. The reduction in the total number of courses resulting from the shift to 4 credits was thought to limit the Art student's autonomy.

A concentration in Art will require that students take a minimum of 40 credits. All Art concentrators will be required to take ART 211, 112, ARTH 251, 252, and 8 additional credits in Art History. In addition, two tracks within Art: 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional, have been specified, each with their own set of course requirements.

A concentration in Art History will require that students take a minimum of 40 credits: ART 211, 212 (6 credits total), ARTH 251, 252 (6 credits total). In addition students are required to take one 4-credit course from each of the following areas: Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque, Modern, American, and Non-Western, and two 4-credit seminars, of which one is Methods of Art History (ARTH 480).