

Student ID: _____
Student Name: _____
Advisor Name: _____

Catalog: 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog
Program: Art History, Theory, and Criticism Major, B.A.
Minimum Credits Required: _____

Art History, Theory, and Criticism Major, B.A.

Department of Art
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Available Program Format(s): In-Person

About the Program

Students examine art and visual culture from a broad variety of cultures and time periods while also learning critical and theoretical frameworks through which to study them. As a liberal arts degree, this major provides students with opportunities to gain research and critical thinking skills as well as learn to do close visual analysis, which are all useful in a variety of career applications, creative industries, and graduate studies. The Department of Art and MSU Denver are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Student Outcomes

1. Locate and synthesize a range of scholarly sources of sufficient breadth and depth to thoroughly investigate an art historical problem.
2. Apply appropriate art historical methods and theoretical frameworks to analyze an art historical problem.
3. Develop and support a clear, logical thesis derived from an art historical study that is eloquently articulated in both oral and written formats.

General Degree Requirements

To earn a degree, students must satisfy all requirements in each of the four areas below, in addition to their individual major requirements.

- Completion Requirements for Degrees and Certificates
- General Studies Requirements
- Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Graduation Requirement
- Senior Experience Graduation Requirement

Program Requirements

- A total of 120 semester hours are required for graduation.
- A grade of C- or better is required for each course in this program to count toward the bachelor's degree. Students should note that programs differ in the minimum grade required.
- Art History, Theory, and Criticism majors who elect to take a minor may not minor in Art History.
- Art History, Theory and Criticism is a distinct academic discipline from Art, Art Education, or Communication Design, although all reside within the Department of Art and share common foundational requirements.
- A minimum of 27 upper-division art history credits required.
- Title and course numbers for variable topics courses will be distinct for each offering, for example: ARTH 354E Art and Culture of the Spanish Golden Age. A student may take up to three distinct offerings under each variable topics designation, for example, ARTH 350A Art of China, ARTH 350B Islamic Art, and ARTH 350D Ancient Maya Art and Culture may all be applied to the requirements.

General Studies Requirements: 33 credits

Students should consult the General Studies Requirements for a list of courses that fulfill the General Studies Requirements for degree completion.

- Written Communication (6 credits)
- Oral Communication (3 credits)
- Quantitative Literacy (3 credits)
- Arts and Humanities (6 credits)
- Historical (3 credits)
- Natural and Physical Sciences (6 credits)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
- Global Diversity (0 or 3 credits**)

** Students will fulfill the global diversity requirement by taking an approved course within one of the following categories: arts and humanities; historical; natural and physical sciences; or social and behavioral sciences.

Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Requirement: 0 or 3 credits

- Students should consult the Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Graduation Requirement for a list of courses that fulfill the ESSJ Requirement for degree completion.
- Many programs include courses that meet this requirement. Students should consult with their advisor to determine what program courses may fulfill this requirement.

Required Ancillary Courses: 6-10 credits

Two semesters of the same foreign language are required and may fulfill General Studies requirements.

Students who entered college with fluency in a language other than English are encouraged to study a language with which they are unfamiliar. Students with a good high school background in a foreign language may take intermediate or advanced courses in that language or study a new language. Four semesters of French or German are often required for entrance into most graduate programs in Art History, Theory and Criticism. Both French and German are often required for entrance into Ph.D. programs in Art History, Theory and Criticism and doctoral research often requires research in at least one additional language.

Art Foundation Requirements: 18 credits

Foundation courses are prerequisites for 2000-level and upper-division courses in the program.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 1101 - Art Studio: 2D	Credits: 3			
ART 1501 - Art Studio: 3D	Credits: 3			
ART 1531 - Art Studio: 4D	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1600 - Art of the Ancient World	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1700 - Art of the Medieval and Early Modern World	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1800 - Art of the Modern and Contemporary World	Credits: 3			

Required Post-foundation Course Work: 6 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ARTH 2600 - Reading and Writing Visual Culture	Credits: 3			
ARTH 4480 - Art Theory and Criticism	Credits: 3			

Art History Electives: 24 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ARTH 3210 - Variable Topics: Site Specific Studies in Art History	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3310 - Arts of Africa	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3330 - Egyptian Art	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3340 - Asian Art	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3360 - Contemporary Chicana/o Art	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3385 - Feminist Art Since 1960	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3401 - Art of Mesoamerica: from Olmec to Aztec	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3402 - Art of the Inca and their Ancestors	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3405 - Native American Art	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3412 - Art of Ancient Greece	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3414 - Ancient Roman Art	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3421 - Icons, Mosques, and Cathedrals: Art around the Medieval Mediterranean	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3433 - Bosch, Dürer, and the Art of the Northern Renaissance	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3434 - Michelangelo, Leonardo, and the Art of Renaissance Italy	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3441 - Caravaggio, Bernini, Velázquez: Baroque Art in Italy and Spain	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3443 - Rubens, Rembrandt, and Versailles: Baroque Art in Northern Europe	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3445 - Colonial Latin American Art	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3481 - Latin American Moderns: from Rivera to Botero	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3500 - Variable Topics: Art of the Americas	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3510 - Variable Topics in Ancient Art	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3520 - Medieval Art: Variable Topics	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3530 - Renaissance Art: Variable Topics	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3540 - Baroque Art: Variable Topics	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3560 - 19th Century Art: Variable Topics	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3580 - 20th and 21st Century Art: Variable Topics	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3670 - Art Between the World Wars	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3680 - Global Contemporary Art Since 1970	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3780 - Experimental Cinema: Histories and Criticism	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3790 - Photography and Modernism	Credits: 3			
ARTH 4410 - Art History and Its Methods	Credits: 3			
ARTH 4500 - Variable Topics Seminar in Art History, Theory and Criticism	Credits: 3			
ARTH 4510 - Exhibiting the Art Object	Credits: 3			

Subtotal: 24 credits

Studio Art Electives: 6 credits

Choose two of the following studio art electives (6 credits). Prerequisites apply - see the catalog for more information.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2611 - Beginning Ceramics: Handbuilding	Credits: 3			
ART 2613 - Beginning Ceramics: Wheelthrowing	Credits: 3			
ART 2631 - Beginning Digital and Emerging Art Practices	Credits: 3			
ART 2641 - Color Drawing: Wet and Dry	Credits: 3			
ART 2643 - Figure Drawing: Wet and Dry	Credits: 3			
ART 2651 - Beginning Jewelry and Metalsmithing	Credits: 3			
ART 2661 - Beginning Painting	Credits: 3			
ART 2671 - Beginning Photography	Credits: 3			
ART 2682 - Beginning Printmaking	Credits: 3			
ART 2691 - Beginning Sculpture	Credits: 3			
CDES 2222 - Fundamentals of Communication Design	Credits: 3			
Subtotal: 6 credits				

Senior Experience: 3 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ARTH 4710 - Art History, Theory and Criticism Senior Experience	Credits: 3			

Summary of Requirements

General Studies Requirements	33 credits
ESSJ Requirement	0-3 credits
Required Ancillary Courses	6-10 credits
Art Foundation Requirements	18 credits
Required Post-Foundation Courses	6 credits
Major Electives	24 credits
Studio Art Electives	6 credits
Senior Experience	3 credits
Unrestricted Electives	17-33 credits
Total for the Art History, Theory and Criticism Major, B.A.	120 credits

Required courses for the major may also count for General Studies and ESSJ requirements, so the total credits listed may be greater than the number required to complete the degree. Therefore, it is important that you work with your advisor to make sure you are meeting requirements for your degree.

Notes: