

Art History

Overview

Welcome to the History of Art Department at UC Berkeley. Ours is among the smallest of the top dozen art history programs in the country. We have roughly 16 faculty members, about 50 graduate students, and 115 or so undergraduate majors. Over the last 30 years, the National Research Council (NRC) has consistently ranked our program among the top three. In the most recent NRC ranking (<http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/nrc/index.shtml/>), our program appeared in first place, tied with another program. The department's traditional strengths are in European and Asian Art, but in the past five years, we have expanded our coverage of the art of the Americas to include Pre-Columbian and Latin American, as well as the full range of modern and contemporary American art.

The department's offices are located in Doe Library on the Berkeley campus, on the fourth floor of the finest humanities research library on the West Coast. We are situated in close proximity to both the department's Visual Resources Center, which curates a substantial and growing body of digital images, and to the Art History/Classics Library on the 3rd floor. Many of the History of Art graduate seminars are held in the Jean Bony Seminar Room of this non-circulating library. Some further examples of the Berkeley program's special resources are the annual Judith K. Stronach Travel Seminar, the annual Mary C. Stoddard Lecture in the History of Art, and the Curatorial Preparedness Initiative (funded over six years from the Mellon Foundation for a total of \$1,250,000).

For information regarding Department events, see the Events page on the department website (<https://arthistory.berkeley.edu/about-us/news/events/>).

For information regarding Faculty books, see the Books by Faculty section on the department website (<https://arthistory.berkeley.edu/about-us/books-faculty/>).

Other Department Resources

Art History/Classics Library (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ARTH/>), located on the fourth floor of Doe Library
 Berkeley Art Museum (<http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/>)
 Phoebe A. Hearst Museum (<http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/>)

Undergraduate Programs

History of Art (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/art-history/>): BA, Minor

Graduate Program

History of Art (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/art-history/>): PhD

Art History

HISTART 200 Graduate Proseminar in the Interpretation of Art Historical Materials 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

An introduction to the fundamentals of art history, including traditional and innovative perspectives designed for candidates for higher degrees. Offerings vary from year to year. Students should consult the department's "Announcement of Classes" for offerings before the beginning of the semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

HISTART 203 Seminar in Material Culture: The Interpretation of Objects 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2018, Fall 2014

This seminar looks at both material culture theory and the practice of interpreting objects in the West and in Asia. It draws on the practices and inquiries of multiple disciplines including archaeology, anthropology, cultural geography, and art history. We will consider the variety of ways and contexts in which objects have been understood to "speak" as aesthetic vehicles and as cultural texts. Taught by two faculty members who have extensive experience as museum curators—one of American Art, the other of Asian Art, this class will combine theory with hands-on learning.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Berger, Lovell

HISTART C204 Proseminar in Classical Archaeology and Ancient Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2015, Spring 2012

This seminar is intended to introduce graduate students--both archaeologists and non-archaeologists--to the discipline of classical archaeology, history, and evolution, and its research tools and bibliography. Since it is both impossible and undesirable to attempt to cover the entire discipline in one semester, after two introductory lectures on the history of the field, we will address a selection of topics that seems representative of its concerns.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Working knowledge of Latin, Greek, and German or French or Italian

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Hallett, Stewart

Also listed as: CLASSIC C204

HISTART C220 Seminar in Middle Eastern Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012

Seminar on critical aspects of Middle Eastern art requiring intensive study and presentation of a research paper. Topics vary from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies C220/History of Art C220

Also listed as: MELC C220

HISTART 230 Seminar in Chinese Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2020, Spring 2017

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 234 Seminar in Japanese Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 236 Seminar in the Art of India 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2015

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 240 Seminar in Greek Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Fall 2011, Fall 2010

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 258 Seminar in Late Medieval Art in Northern Europe 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Spring 2010, Spring 2007

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 260 Seminar in Italian Renaissance Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2016, Spring 2013

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 262 Seminar in European Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2013, Spring 2012

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 263 Seminar in European Art: Mimesis 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2014

Mimesis, Greek for "imitation" is a key term in recent debates in a number of disciplines. However, what is at its core is often astonishingly undefined, open and ambivalent. Starting with antique and medieval works addressing key moments of mimesis we will also explore modern theories of mimesis. Crossing the threshold between pre-modern and modern examples will help us to understand the premises for the visual culture involving the rise of naturalism, and more generally the nature of representation in medieval and early modern culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Fricke

HISTART 270 Seminar in Baroque Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 281 Seminar in 19th-Century Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2016, Fall 2013

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 285 Seminar in 20th-Century Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 286 Seminar in 20th-Century Painting and Sculpture 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2009, Fall 2008, Fall 2007

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART C288 Vernacular Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Studies in vernacular art and expression. Topics will vary from semester to semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

8 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: FOLKLOR C288

HISTART 289 Seminar in American Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 290 Special Topics in Fields of Art History 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Topics explore themes and problems, often reflect current research interests of the instructor, and supplement regular curricular offerings. Detailed descriptions of current and future offerings available in 416 Doe Library.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

HISTART 291 Judith Stronach Graduate Travel Seminar in Art History 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2019

This course explores site-specific themes, topics, and problems, reflects current research interests of the instructor(s), and supplements regular curricular offerings. Detailed descriptions of current and (where known) future offerings available in 416 Doe Library.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

HISTART 296 Directed Dissertation Research 3 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017

Independent study open to qualified students directly engaged upon the doctoral dissertation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

HISTART 298 Group Study for Graduate Students in the History of Art 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

Directed group discussion for graduate students, focused on selected books, articles, problems, primary sources, and/or works of art. Usually but not necessarily offered as preparation for a travel seminar or other supervised fieldwork.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor, and possibly courses in the history of art

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

HISTART 299 Special Study for Graduate Students in the History of Art 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2023

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

HISTART 300 Supervised Teaching of History of Art 1 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023

Weekly meetings with the instructor to discuss the methods and aims of the course, to plan the content and presentation of the material for the discussion sections, and to set standards and criteria for grading and commenting upon papers and exams. In addition, after visiting sections early in the semester, the instructor will discuss with each GSI individually his or her performance and make any necessary recommendations for improvement.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and concurrent appointment as a graduate student instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0-0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

HISTART 375 Seminar in History of Art Teaching 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This pedagogical seminar introduces graduate students to methods and theories of teaching history of art. The course has two primary goals: (1) to train new graduate student instructors to assist in teaching History of Art classes at UCB; and (2) to introduce students to techniques of designing and teaching their own classes. The seminar may be taken concurrently with the first teaching assignment or in the semester before beginning teaching.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

HISTART 601 Individual Study for Master's Students in the History of Art 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Individual study in consultation with the graduate adviser.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: For candidates for master's degree

Credit Restrictions: Course does not satisfy unit or residence requirements for master's degree.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

HISTART 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students in the History of Art 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Individual study, in consultation with the graduate adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare themselves for the various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D. degree.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: For candidates for doctoral degree

Credit Restrictions: Course does not satisfy unit or residence requirements for doctoral degree.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: History of Art/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.