General Concentration

The History of Art and Architecture concentration offers training in the historical interpretation and critical analysis of the visual arts and architecture.

The concentration is an effective core to a liberal arts education, and not merely pre-professional training for future art historians working in the academy or in the museum. The history of art and architecture is virtually unique among academic disciplines in studying the products of societies in every part of the world over the entire span of human history, from Paleolithic cave paintings to the works of our closest contemporaries. And the concentration develops skills of visual discrimination and verbal expression fundamental to many fields of inquiry and action.

Art history is itself a multifaceted discipline embracing many different methods, perspectives, and interests. Sometimes it deduces from works of art the time and place of their making, or the identity of their makers. Sometimes it examines how concepts, ideals, and sensibilities of people of the past are expressed in—and shaped by—their art. Sometimes it explores within large-scale fabrications (buildings, towns, cities) the dynamic between human and natural or technological worlds. These and other approaches are reflected in the teaching and scholarship of the History of Art and Architecture faculty.

Training in the critical analysis of art seeks to clarify the perception—and understanding—of how artworks relate to the techniques and materials used in their making, and to the environment in which they are seen. It also fosters visual literacy and the ability to make and explain judgments of cultural resonance, social impact, and formal coherence. Instruction in critical analysis is aided by the department’s partnership with the Harvard Art Museums, comprising the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Sackler museums. This offers students a unique opportunity of first-hand study of original works of art in many media. Other collections on campus commonly used in teaching include those of the Peabody and Semitic museums and the Houghton Library. The Fine Arts Library also boasts an expansive special collections that comprises unique books, facsimiles, albums, prints, and photographs.

Concentration requirements ensure that students are well versed in both the historical and critical facets of the field. Generally, course work offers coverage of the history of art and architecture, while a sequence of small-group tutorials develops critical skills. For students with a special interest in architecture, the concentration offers courses on architectural history and urban planning, while also helping to advise in, and coordinate, relevant coursework undertaken beyond the department. (Architecture Studies is a track within the concentration, jointly administered by the History of Art and Architecture and the Graduate School of Design. The track has its own requirements, which are detailed below.) Students wishing to pursue other specific interests may receive advising from appropriate faculty as arranged by the director of undergraduate studies.

Courses in the History of Art and Architecture undergraduate curriculum are structured as a three-tier system, consisting of a sequence of entry-level and field-specific introductory courses, upper-level courses, and tutorials.

HUMAN 20, “A Colloquium in the Visual Arts,” and HAA 11, “Landmarks of World Architecture,” are general, conceptual introductions (to world art from pre-history to the present, and the history of world architecture, respectively) each of which could serve as a point of entry into the courses and concentration of History of Art and Architecture. Other double-digit lecture courses in HAA, or offered by HAA faculty through the program in General Education, are also suitable points of entry into the concentration.

Tutorials are small-group seminars which discuss the methodology of the discipline or examine a specific research topic in the discipline. These are intended to provide increasing expertise in critical and analytical thinking and serve as a basis for independent senior research projects. The senior thesis offers a student the opportunity to apply in greater depth one or more of the methods and aims developed in courses and tutorials, although, of course, theses often deal with subjects not included in class work.
The concentration in History of Art and Architecture can be pursued in conjunction with several other concentrations, most commonly Art, Film, and Visual Studies, English, Anthropology, a number of area studies, or Romance Languages. Together with the Departments of the Classics, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Anthropology, the Department of History of Art and Architecture initiates students in the study of archaeology.

Requirements for all concentrators, joint and full, provide exposure to a variety of areas within the history of art and architecture, as well as for the selection of a major field focus from among the following: African, African-American, American, Ancient (Egypt, Ancient Near East, Greece, Rome), Architecture, Baroque and Rococo, Byzantine, Chinese, European 18th and 19th centuries, Japanese, South Asian, Islamic, Latin American/Pre-Columbian, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary, Photography, and Renaissance (Northern and Southern).

Students concerned with joint concentration, credit for work done elsewhere, and late transfer into History of Art and Architecture should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. All concentrators should arrange advising appointments with the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the start of each term. General advising about course offerings and concentration requirements is provided by the Undergraduate Coordinator.

Requirements

Basic Requirements: 12 courses (48 credits)

1. Required Courses:
   a. Three courses from offered introductory courses, numbered History of Art and Architecture 1–89. Gened courses and freshman seminars taught by senior HAA faculty will also be considered. HUM 20, “A Colloquium in the Visual Arts”, is also accepted towards this requirement. (Freshmen considering the concentration should normally take at least one of these in their freshman year, although this is not a prerequisite for the concentration.)
   b. Three courses in a major field chosen from the list in item 5.3.
   c. Three courses in at least two different areas outside the major field to be chosen from courses with two or three-digit numeration or offerings by HAA Faculty in the Program in General Education.
   d. One course of History of Art and Architecture 97r (see item 2.1).
   e. Two courses of History of Art and Architecture 98ar (see item 2.2).
   f. Note: Of the twelve courses required, a distribution requirement must be fulfilled as follows:
      i. One course in items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, or 1.4 must be in Asian, Islamic, African, or Latin American/Pre-Columbian if the major field is in any area of European or North American art or architecture; or one course in European or North American art or architecture if the major field is Asian, Islamic, African, or Latin American/Pre-Columbian.
      ii. Two courses in two different periods other than that of the major field. No more than five of the series of courses numbered History of Art and Architecture 10–89 may be taken for concentration credit, except with the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The balance should be tutorials and upper-level courses.

2. Tutorials:
   a. Sophomore year: History of Art and Architecture 97r (one term); required. Letter-graded. This group tutorial is an introduction to the practice of art and architectural history through object-based teaching. The course as a whole is led by a graduate student, with individual weekly looking and discussion sessions led by Faculty members in HAA.
   b. Junior year: History of Art and Architecture 98ar (two terms); required. Letter-graded. History of Art and Architecture 98ar, a group tutorial, consists of weekly meetings with a graduate student, with regular reading and writing assignments. Under the 98ar course number several “study groups” are offered each year, each investigating a particular topic in art history. These include: museums and collections; race and aesthetics; the art of looking and writing; and architectural methods. Concentrators select two of the four “study group” topics.

3. Thesis: None. (The thesis is required only for students who wish to be eligible for honors).

4. General Examinations: None.

5. Other information:
   a. History of Art and Architecture courses may include: General Education courses given by members of the Department of History of Art and Architecture; all historical courses in Art, Film, and Visual Studies; courses in classical archaeology; selected courses in the Program in General Education, the humanities, anthropology, and African and African American studies; certain offerings of the Graduate School of Design; and certain Freshman Seminars. The designation of any course taken outside the Department as a concentration course is subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. No more than two courses may be “imported” into the concentration by petition over and above those which are already cross-listed; exceptions for coursework done as part of study abroad programs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
   b. Pass/Fail: Normally, no work taken Pass/Fail will be accepted as part of the concentration; however, the Director of Undergraduate Studies may make an exception for not more than one Freshman Seminar (graded SAT/UNS).
   c. Major fields: Students elect one of the categories below as an area of focus.
      i. African
      ii. African-American
      iii. American
      iv. Ancient
      v. Architecture
      vi. Baroque and Rococo
      vii. Byzantine
      viii. Chinese
      ix. European 18th and 19th centuries
      x. South Asian
      xi. Islamic
      xii. Japanese
      xiii. Latin American/Pre-Columbian
      xiv. Medieval
      xv. Modern and Contemporary
      xvi. Photography
      xvii. Renaissance (Northern and Southern)

Requirements for Honors Eligibility: 14 courses (including thesis) (56 credits)

1. Required courses: Same as Basic Requirements.
Architecture Studies Track

Requirements

Architecture Studies is a track within the History of Art and Architecture concentration, jointly administered by the History of Art and Architecture and the Graduate School of Design, it pursues the study of architecture within the spirit of a liberal arts education.

The track has its own requirements, which are detailed below. A statement of purpose and a proposed course plan is required for Architecture Studies. Interested students should contact the HAA Undergraduate Coordinator for further information on this process and on the curriculum overall.

Architecture stands at the intersection of creative imagination, practical realization, and social use, comprising not only material structures of human occupation, but also the dynamic processes that shape human action and experience. The study of architecture integrates technical and humanistic methods of inquiry with written and visual modes of representation, in traditional classroom venues and “making”-based studios designed especially for this concentration.

Within the Architecture Studies track, one of two broad areas of emphasis may be chosen:

1. History and Theory, which includes the study of architecture, cities, landscapes, designed objects, ornament, architectural photography, and material culture, in diverse places and time periods including Africa, the Americas, China, Europe, India, the Islamic world, and Japan, all from antiquity to the present.
2. Design Studies, which includes investigations into the social and aesthetic dimensions of contemporary architecture, landscapes, cities, and territories, emphasizing issues of sustainable environments, new forms of urbanism, and the use of digital media for visualization and analysis.

Both the “History and Theory” and the “Design Studies” areas teach architecture within the larger visual culture.

Basic Requirements: 12 courses

1. Required courses:
   b. Three courses in architecture or a related field from offered courses numbered HAA 12-89 and 100-199, adhering to the following guidelines: at least one course in Asian, Islamic, African, South Asian, or Latin American/Pre-Columbian art or architecture; one course in any area of European or North American architecture; and one course in architecture before 1800. See the Undergraduate Coordinator for a list of approved courses.
   c. HAA 96a, Architecture Studio 1: Transformations (course). Studio may be taken sophomore or junior year. No prerequisite. Studio meets for six hours per week.
   d. HAA 96b, Architecture Studio 2: Connections (course). Studio may be taken junior or senior year. HAA 96a must be taken as a prerequisite. Studio meets for six hours per week.
   e. One course of HAA 98ar (see basic requirements item 2.2).
   f. One course of HAA 97r (see basic requirements item 2.1).
2. Distribution Requirements for Areas of Emphasis:
   a. History and Theory. Four courses in architecture or a related field, from offered courses numbered HAA 100-299 or related courses at the GSD, with approval by the Director of Undergraduate Studies (e.g., GSD 4121, 4122, 4223, 4141, 4142). Courses should be balanced between the two departments. Courses in the HAA 200 range require permission of instructor. Other courses from the HAA or GSD rosters, or courses from other departments, may be substituted with approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies (see item 6.1).
   b. Design Studies. Four courses from offered courses that investigate design media, and the social, ecological, and aesthetic dimensions of environments, numbered HAA 100-199 or related course attheGSDwith approval by the Director of Undergraduate Studies (e.g.,
Courses should be balanced between the two departments. GSD courses require permission of instructor. Other courses from the HAA or GSD rosters, or courses from other departments, may be substituted with approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies (see item 6.1).

3. **Tutorials:**
   a. **Junior Year:** History of Art and Architecture 98ar (one term) required. Letter-graded. Tutorial led by graduate student, offers concentrators the choice of several topics in the field of art and architectural history.
   b. **Sophomore Year:** History of Art and Architecture 97r (one term) required. Letter-graded. History of Art and Architecture 97r is an introduction to the practice of art and architectural history through object-based teaching led by Faculty members in HAA.

4. **Thesis:** None required. (The thesis is required only for students who wish to be eligible for honors).

5. **General Examinations:** None.

6. **Other information:**
   a. The designation as a concentration course of any course taken outside of those listed above or on the program’s list of approved courses is subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. No more than two courses may be “imported” into the concentration by petition over and above those which are already cross-listed; exceptions for coursework done as part of study abroad programs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
   b. **Pass/Fail:** Normally, no work taken Pass/Fail will be accepted as part of the concentration; however, the Director of Undergraduate Studies may make an exception for not more than one Freshman Seminar (graded SAT/UNS).

### Requirements for Honors Eligibility: 14 courses (56 credits) and thesis

1. **Required courses:** Same as [Basic Requirements](#).
2. **Distribution Requirements for Areas of Emphasis:** Same as [Basic Requirements](#).
3. **Tutorials:**
   a. Same as [Basic Requirements](#).
   b. Same as [Basic Requirements](#).
   c. **Senior Year:** History of Art and Architecture 99r (two terms). Graded SAT/UNS. Strongly recommended is History of Art and Architecture 99 (two terms), which includes several group tutorial meetings with the senior honors advisor, where assignments are aimed at facilitating the research and writing of a senior thesis.

4. **Thesis:** Required, ordinarily prepared as part of History of Art and Architecture 99 and/or 92r. The student may choose to research and write a thesis or prepare a thesis design project. A student who does not complete the thesis but wishes to receive year-long 8-credit or year 4-credit course credit for History of Art and Architecture 99 or 92r must submit a paper or other substantial piece of work. Only students with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 within the concentration are eligible to prepare a thesis. (See [Writing a Thesis](#) for more information.)

5. **General Examination:** None.

6. **Other information:** Same as [Basic Requirements](#).

### Explanation of Course Numbering

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Primarily for Undergraduates</td>
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<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Supervised Reading</td>
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<td>91, 910</td>
<td>Supervised Reading and Research</td>
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<td>Special Seminar or Laboratory Course</td>
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<td>Graduate Courses of Reading and Research</td>
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### Advising

Departmental academic advising is provided by the faculty, by the Undergraduate Coordinator, and by the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Jennifer Roberts, who meets individually with concentrators to discuss course selection and tutorials (usually at the beginning of each term and by appointment at other times). Students working on a senior thesis are advised by the Senior Thesis Advisor Professor Felipe Pereda.

Students are reminded, however, that they are each ultimately responsible for the fulfillment of concentration requirements and should check regularly on the current status of their progress. Procedural information and advice is available throughout the year in the Undergraduate Office. Please contact the Interim Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Marcus Mayo at the Sackler Building (3rd floor, Office 309), 485 Broadway <marcus_mayo@fas.harvard.edu>. The Senior Thesis Advisor is Professor Felipe Pereda and the Director of Graduate Studies is Professor Ewa Lajer-Burchard. Our Department Chair is Professor David Roxburgh.

### Resources
History of Art and Architecture concentrators benefit from the unusually rich University collections of Harvard’s five museums: the Fogg, Sackler, Busch-Reisinger (-the Harvard Art Museums), Semitic, and Peabody museums containing Western, Asian, and ethnographic art. Concentrators often have an opportunity to be involved in aspects of museum operations, working with curators and museum staff to research pieces in the collection and/or share in the mounting of exhibitions. Harvard’s library holdings in art and archaeology include more than 250,000 books and more than 1,500,000 photographs and slides.

The Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and the Institute of Contemporary Arts are three of Boston’s great cultural resources. Entrance to these institutions is free to undergraduates who show their Harvard ID cards at the door.

Two departmental funds are available to support senior thesis writers looking to travel as part of their research: The Matthew Abramson ’96 Traveling Fellowship, and The Joseph Pulitzer, Jr. ’36 Beneficiary Aid Fund. More information can be found on the Prizes, Grants and Opportunities page on the department website.

### Enrolment Statistics

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### History of Art and Architecture as a Secondary Field

The Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University offers the broadest range of courses in the discipline available in North America today. The faculty offer courses covering the diverse historical and cultural geographies of the world—as well as their points of intersection, dialogue, and exchange—in the fields of African, African-American, American, Ancient, architectural history and theory, Baroque and Rococo, Byzantine, Chinese, European 18th and 19th centuries, South Asian, Islamic, Japanese, Latin American/Pre-Columbian, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary, Photography, and the Renaissance (Northern and Southern). The scope of art and architecture studied is matched in variety by both approaches and methods of study. The secondary field is structured to provide students with a balance between introductory and advanced courses of instruction and to promote understanding of the world’s art traditions present and past. The secondary field offers students an opportunity to explore their interest in the history of art and architecture in the broadest of possible terms, or equally to pursue a focused academic interest for its own sake or that complements a course of study in their primary concentration. Courses of study are enhanced by direct access to the collections of the Harvard Art Museums, the Peabody and Semitic museums, and the Houghton Library among others.

### Requirements: 6 courses (24 credits)

- Three courses from the lower level of department offerings, selected from the catalogue range HAA 1 to 89 (these may include Freshman Seminars and General Education courses offered by HAA Faculty, and cross-listed courses).
- Three courses from the upper level of department offerings, selected from the catalogue numbers of the HAA 100-200 range. (Students wishing to enroll in a 200-level seminar must request the instructor’s permission.)
- Of the 6 courses, a balance must be achieved chronologically before or after the year 1700 C.E. by a ratio of 2:4 or 4:2.

### Other Information

In addition to Freshman Seminars and General Education courses taught by History of Art and Architecture faculty, Harvard Summer School courses in the history of art and architecture may also count towards secondary field credit. Those courses credited for the Secondary in History of Art and Architecture must be led by faculty holding a teaching appointment in the HAA Department. There is no grade minimum for courses to count towards the secondary field but, with the exception of Freshman Seminars, courses must be taken for a letter grade. Students pursuing a secondary field will not be given preferential access to limited enrollment courses, which in our concentration are generally undergraduate pro-seminars and seminars for graduate students. In limited enrollment courses, instructors will decide whether or not a secondary field student is admitted to the course based on such factors as level of preparation, stated interest, and/or need.

### Advising Resources and Expectations

Students pursuing the secondary field in History of Art and Architecture are strongly advised to contact your intended Secondary Field with a list of courses you plan to count towards the Secondary. Inform the department using the secondary fields web tool and to seek academic advising from the Director of Undergraduate Studies before embarking upon this course of study. Students should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies by email and meet to discuss their academic interest and objectives. The initial meeting could occur at any stage after the concentration choice has been made, but ideally in the student’s fourth or fifth semester. Academic advising and general mentoring in the course of secondary field study will also be provided by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Undergraduate Coordinator at the student’s request. The Director of Undergraduate Studies is Prof. Jennifer Roberts; the Interim Undergraduate Coordinator is Marcus Mayo <marcus_mayo@fas.harvard.edu>