

Art History

The Department of History of Art offers a two-stage integrated master's and doctoral program (MA/PhD) in preparation for college teaching, writing, and specialized curatorial careers. Students are not admitted to work for a terminal MA degree, though students may apply for the MA after meeting Stage I requirements toward the PhD. Students work closely with faculty in courses, seminars, and on independent research projects to develop independent thought and a thorough knowledge of the field and its critical methods. Cross-disciplinary work in Berkeley's distinguished departments of languages and literature, philosophy, rhetoric, film studies, women's studies, history, and the social sciences is strongly encouraged. A student may opt for a more formal relationship with other departments through Designated Emphases programs, including film studies; folklore; women, gender, and sexuality; and critical theory.

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Curriculum

A minimum of 42 units, which must include:

HISTART 200	Graduate Proseminar in the Interpretation of Art Historical Materials	4
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HISTART 375	Seminar in History of Art Teaching	2
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Seven 4-unit graduate seminars in addition to HA200, six of which must be in art history with five different faculty

Students can decide how to fulfill the remaining 8 units

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.