Art History and Archaeology

The department offers the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. Particular areas of strength include ancient art, European art of the Renaissance and early modern periods, Asian art, and modern and contemporary art of Europe and the Americas. Students with degrees from the department go on to positions in colleges, universities and art museums, or to pursue further graduate study.

Applicants for admission are normally expected to have completed 18 hours of undergraduate study in art history. However, the department welcomes applications from students with less background in art history who show strong preparation in such fields as classics, history, literature, anthropology, and Asian studies.

During the first semester, every student must demonstrate a reading knowledge of French, German, Italian, or Spanish (for Western art history) or Chinese or Japanese (for Asian art history). Candidates for the PhD are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in at least two foreign languages, depending on the requirements of the field.

The graduate seminar L01-510, Methods in Art History, is required of all graduate students. Students work out an individualized program of study in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and the faculty within their area of interest. Upon completion of 30 hours of course work, AM students may write a thesis, normally for 6 credit hours, supervised by a member of the faculty; or take a cumulative written exam based on their course work, also normally for 6 credit hours. Either thesis or exam is followed by an oral defense.

Students with a master's degree earned elsewhere may apply directly to the PhD program. Applicants without a master's degree may apply either for a terminal AM or for the AM/PhD. Students completing AM requirements at Washington University must apply in writing to the faculty for formal admission to the PhD program. Each candidate's studies are supervised by a Research Advisory Committee, a core group of three members of the faculty.

PhD students are expected to gain teaching experience within the department (as teaching assistants or instructors) as part of their professional preparation. After 60 hours of course work, a student takes a comprehensive PhD qualifying exam, which could follow either a written or an oral model. A final oral defense is held following successful completion of the dissertation.

Phone: (314) 935-5270
Departmental website: http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu

Chair
Elizabeth C. Childs
Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor of Art History
PhD, Columbia University

Endowed Professor
William E. Wallace
Barbara Murphy Bryant Distinguished Professor of Art History
PhD, Columbia University

Professor
Angela Miller
PhD, Yale University

Associate Professor
John Klein
PhD, Columbia University

Assistant Professors
Marisa Bass
PhD, Harvard University

Nathaniel Jones
PhD, Yale University

Kristina Kleutghen
David W. Mesker Career Development Professor
PhD, Harvard University

Ila Sheren
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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PhD, Harvard University

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Rebecca & John Voyles Professor of Architecture
PhD, Princeton University

Professors Emeriti
Sarantis Symeonoglou
PhD, Columbia University

Mark S. Weil
E. Desmond Lee Professor Emeritus
PhD, Columbia University

Affiliated Curators, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University
Sabine Eckmann
Director and Chief Curator
PhD, University of Erlangen–Nürnberg
Degree Requirements

The general outlines of the PhD degree in the Department of Art History and Archaeology adhere to the requirements of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. To earn a PhD at Washington University, a student must complete 72 semester hours, maintain satisfactory academic progress, pass certain examinations, fulfill residence and teaching requirements, and write, defend, and submit a dissertation. For the Graduate School's guidelines for doctoral dissertations, visit their Policies & Guides page.

We offer admission to an AM/PhD track in which a rigorous evaluation in the second year determines formal admission to PhD candidacy. Students completing an AM degree at another university may apply directly to our PhD program. We also, on occasion, accept applications for a terminal AM degree. If you are not certain about which of these options is right for you, please consult Professor John Klein, Director of Graduate Studies, at jrklein@wustl.edu.
capable of using at least one relevant language in research. The department schedules these language exams early in the fall semester. If needed, the student may arrange a retest later during the fall semester or early in the spring semester; 2) by completing a two-semester sequence of “reading knowledge” courses with a grade of B+ or better. Any student embarking on this path should remember that a 9-hour course load in our department plus a 3-hour language course constitutes a very demanding schedule. Alternatively, students may take summer language courses, but such courses may be at their own expense. (Students may petition the Graduate School for tuition remission for one of the few summer reading and translation courses offered, but there is no promise of such remission.)

All PhD candidates in western art are required to demonstrate proficiency in two foreign languages by the end of their first year in the PhD program (normally, the sixth semester of graduate study). These languages will be determined in consultation with the student's major adviser.

For PhD students in Asian and classical art or archaeology, language requirements in addition to the AM-level requirements will be determined in consultation with the major adviser.

Review of our AM students for PhD candidacy

Prior to completion of the AM degree, candidates will have fulfilled the AM foreign language proficiency requirement for their field, and will have submitted for their departmental file four seminar or other research papers completed for at least two different faculty members.

The following steps constitute our second-year review procedure for all students who are completing the AM degree in the department and are applying to continue in the PhD program:

1. By December 15 of the second AM year, candidates will submit a formal letter requesting admission to the PhD program, accompanied by a C.V. The letter will include a statement of the candidate's proposed areas of study and the faculty member(s) who will act as mentors and a potential dissertation adviser. Candidates should request at least two letters of recommendation from tenure-track faculty members in the department in support of the application. Tenure-track faculty members from outside the department may be asked to provide additional letters. These letters must be received by December 15 of the second AM year.

2. Early in the following semester, tenure-track faculty in the department will vote on the candidate's application for admission to the PhD program.

3. Admission to PhD candidacy is contingent upon the successful completion of the AM degree, including the master's thesis. The thesis will be read by three faculty members and judged as evidence of the candidate's ability to conduct PhD-level work and promise to complete the PhD degree successfully.

Guidelines for graduate curriculum, major and minor areas, the PhD Comprehensive Exam, and the Dissertation Prospectus

These guidelines apply to students entering in Fall 2009 and later.

Required courses and program requirements

1. L01 510, Graduate Seminar: Methods in Art History. 3 credit hours, graded with a letter grade. Frequency is biannual, to be taken by all first-year and second-year graduate students at the time of offering. New PhD students may be exempt if they have had a comparable course in another graduate program; this will be determined in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

2. L01 650, PhD Comprehensive Exam Preparation. 6 credit hours, normally taken all at once, in the eighth semester; graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

3. L01 670, Dissertation Prospectus. 3 credit hours, normally taken at the same time as L01 650; graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

In the case of an Unsatisfactory grade in PhD Comprehensive Exam Preparation or Dissertation Prospectus, the student may, with the consent of the major adviser, repeat the course or courses the following semester, but with no guarantee of funding in that semester, since this will be deemed to be unsatisfactory progress and performance.

In conjunction with these courses the student will then:

- Present and successfully defend the dissertation prospectus before the faculty of the department
- Be examined in one major area
- Be examined in one minor area (or take exemption option specified below)

These three elements constitute the department's PhD comprehensive requirements. They will usually be fulfilled no later than the end of the eighth semester of graduate study at Washington University (or no later than the ninth semester of graduate study for our PhD students who received the AM degree elsewhere; see example schedules below).

In addition, every student is required by the Graduate School to complete the PhD Title, Scope and Procedure (TSP) Form, with the signatures of the three members of the student's Research Advisory Committee (the form is available at the Graduate School website). The TSP form should be submitted to the Graduate School as soon as possible once the student determines a dissertation topic and a Research
Advisory Committee, consisting of the three Washington University tenure-track faculty members who will have primary responsibility for advising the student on the dissertation. Only upon completion of these department and Graduate School requirements will a student be considered as ABD. Financial support from the Graduate School will not be guaranteed if a student is not ABD by the beginning of the ninth semester at Washington University (or by the end of the fifth semester at Washington University for our PhD students who received the AM degree elsewhere). Students are advised that faculty members are not obligated to provide graduate-level advising over the summer months.

**Comprehensive Exam**
The PhD Comprehensive Exam is intended to test a student's general knowledge as well as mastery of her or his area or areas of specialization. To this end, exams are tailored to the individual student, and can be both general and highly specific. Usually a student will have an approved dissertation topic before, or at about the same time as, taking the PhD Comprehensive Exam. As a general rule, students are advised not to devote more than one semester to studying for the exam.

Students will complete a department form to declare major and minor areas (or in the case of an exempted minor area, by which courses, with the grade record). The form should be signed by the major adviser, the second adviser, the minor adviser and the Director of Graduate Studies, and placed in the student's confidential department file no later than the beginning of the seventh semester. This form may be updated as necessary.

In following any of the models outlined below, a student will be examined by a PhD Comprehensive Exam Committee, normally consisting of three faculty members. The major adviser must be a tenure-track faculty member from within the department. Either (but not both) the second adviser in the major — see **Major area and exam** below or the minor adviser may be a tenure-track Arts & Sciences faculty member from outside the department. If the second adviser in the major and the minor adviser are the same person, she or he must be in the department.

**Two formats for the Comprehensive Exam: written or oral**
In agreement with the major adviser (who will normally be the dissertation adviser), each student will normally follow one of two formats for the PhD Comprehensive Exam:

1. A written exam to be followed within two weeks by an oral defense; or
2. An oral exam to be followed by a two-week written paper in the major area.

If the written format is chosen, the major (6 hours) and minor (3 hours) exams will be held in the department within a one-week period. The oral defense of the exams will also be held in the department. The major adviser, the second adviser, and the minor adviser will participate in the defense.

If the major and minor exams are oral, they will take place in the department and they will usually be held at the same time. The major adviser, the second adviser, and the minor adviser will participate. The two-week paper may be written anywhere. The two-week paper will be assessed by all three members of this Comprehensive Exam Committee.

The dissertation prospectus defense may be scheduled at a different time that semester.

**Major area and exam**
The major area will be intellectually ambitious and broad in scope, and will be defined in such a way as to ensure solid preparation for a wide array of teaching demands at the college and university level. Approved areas will be posted on the department website, but other major areas may be defined in consultation with both the Director of Graduate Studies and the major adviser.

In consultation with the major adviser, the student will invite one additional faculty member to serve as a second adviser to the major area exam. This second adviser may (but is not required) to participate in establishing the parameters and expectations for study of the major area. The second adviser must read the student's written responses and participate in the oral defense; or in the case of an oral comprehensive exam, the second adviser must participate. It is up to the major adviser and the second adviser to clearly define their roles and responsibilities for advising the student, and to communicate to the student all expectations during the period of preparation for the exam.

The major area will be tested either by a written exam over a six-hour period followed by an oral defense of the exam, or orally in an exam that may last up to two hours.

If the student chooses the oral exam in the major, this will be followed by a two-week research paper on a topic assigned by the major adviser. During the two weeks, the student has full access to all notes and research materials and to any library and online resources. The purpose of the two-week paper is to demonstrate a high level of both writing and research skills on a focused topic in the major area.

**Minor area and exam; or exemption through appropriate related course work**
The minor area should be broad enough and sufficiently separate from the major area to constitute a distinct second teaching field when the student completes the degree program. Students are encouraged to determine a minor area at a significant chronological, geographic and/or theoretical remove from the broader area defined as the major area. The minor area will be determined in consultation with the minor adviser and must also be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

The minor area exam may be completed by one of the two exam models as above in the major — written exam (three hours) followed by oral defense; or oral exam (one hour) normally at
the same time as the oral exam in the major (but there will be no written paper following an oral exam in the minor). The same exam model will usually be followed for both major and minor areas.

Alternatively, a student may request to exempt a minor area exam by completing three courses with a grade of A in each (at most one may be A–). When exempting a minor area exam in this way, the courses may be taken with more than one faculty member, but a single minor adviser should agree to review the request for exemption, and to assess whether or not the group of three courses constitutes a coherent and significant area of intellectual inquiry. A student whose request for exemption is accepted must also write a one-week essay on a topic in the minor area, in response to a question set by the minor adviser. During that week, the student has full access to his or her notes and to any library and online resources. The goal of this minor area qualifying essay will be to demonstrate a command of the field sufficient for teaching a college-level course. Students are encouraged to complete both the request to exempt the minor area and the minor area qualifying essay by the end of the semester following the third course taken to fulfill this exemption option.

**Dissertation prospectus**

The dissertation prospectus should be about 8-10 pages of text (2500-3000 words), plus notes and a short scholarly bibliography. The prospectus should typically include a state-of-the-field section; a statement of and justification of the proposed dissertation topic; and a preliminary research plan. In conjunction with the preparation of the prospectus the student should form a three-member Research Advisory Committee consisting of the dissertation adviser, who must be a tenure-track faculty member of the department, and two other tenure-track faculty members. The three members of the Research Advisory Committee will normally be the signatories on the PhD Title, Scope and Procedure form, which should be completed and filed. If appropriate to the student’s research area, one of the Research Advisory Committee members may be a tenure-track faculty member from another department or program in Arts & Sciences.

During the semester of enrollment in the Dissertation Prospectus course, each student will establish a schedule to turn in a draft prospectus, including state-of-the-field essay, statement of topic and bibliography, to the dissertation adviser. During that semester, the student will also defend the complete draft of the dissertation prospectus in a closed session to which only tenure-track faculty members of the department and any outside member of the Research Advisory Committee (if any) will be invited (at least four tenure-track department faculty members must be present at this defense). The three members of the Research Advisory Committee will be present at the defense, and all faculty members present will vote on the acceptability of the prospectus. A “pass” on the prospectus by majority vote means that it is accepted provisionally, subject to revisions that may be required by the Committee following the defense; the dissertation adviser will ensure that such revisions are carried out. In case of a failure on the defense, either by majority or tie vote, the entire Research Advisory Committee will be charged with evaluating a revised prospectus. A copy of the accepted dissertation prospectus will be placed in the student’s confidential file. Once the prospectus has been accepted the student should complete and file the Dissertation Title, Scope and Procedure form with the Graduate School. A copy of this will be placed in the student’s department file.

All parts of this comprehensive examination process — the major exam, the minor exam (or its exemption by appropriate courses), and the defense of a dissertation prospectus should, as stated above, be completed by the end of the eighth semester for a student in the PhD program (or the end of the ninth semester for a student who enters the PhD program with the AM degree from another university). This matches the Graduate School’s requirement for fifth-year funding that a student be ABD (except for dissertation research credits needed to reach the minimum total of 72 credits).

**Schedule for AM/PhD students**

A sample schedule for an AM/PhD student might look like this (graduate courses usually comprise 3 credit hours; therefore, 3 courses generally equals 9 credit hours):

### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>9 credits, including L01 510, Graduate Seminar: Methods in Art History, and another seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9 credits, including two seminars</td>
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### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>9 credits, including 3 credits of L01 500, Independent Study, for research on the AM thesis topic; also includes L01 510 if not taken in the first year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9 credits, including 6 credits of L01 590, Master’s Research Instruction, and a seminar</td>
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### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Year 4
Students in the PhD program with an AM degree from another university

In the case of students who are admitted to the PhD program with an accepted AM degree from another university in hand, only 24 credits transfer in, so they will probably need to take more time than our own AM students to arrive at the requirement of 60 credits of general course work because they would begin their third year (i.e., their first post-AM year) with 24, not 36, credits. This does not affect the Graduate School’s willingness to fund such students if they take slightly longer to complete PhD course requirements than students who have received the AM here, assuming they are otherwise making timely and satisfactory progress, because students who arrive with the AM degree from elsewhere are still eligible for at least five years of support from Washington University.

The typical schedule for a student coming to Washington University with the AM degree:

**Years 1 and 2 elsewhere:** 24 credits transfer to WU

**Year 3**

- **Fall:** 9 credits
- **Spring:** 9 credits

**Year 4**

- **Fall:** 9 credits
- **Spring:** 9 credits

**Year 5**

- **Fall:** 9 credits
  - 3 credits L01 650, Comprehensive Exam Preparation
  - 3 credits L01 670, Dissertation Prospectus
  - 3 credits L01 690, Dissertation Research
- **Spring:** 9 credits
  - 6 credits of general course work, plus 3 credits of L01 650, Comprehensive Exam Preparation
- **Course work now completed with 60 credits

**Year 6**

- **Fall:** 9 credits
  - 3 credits L01 650, Comprehensive Exam Preparation
  - 3 credits L01 670, Dissertation Prospectus
  - 3 credits of L01 690, Dissertation Research
- **Spring:** Start as ABD, 3 credits of L01 690, Dissertation Research, to reach 72 credits (may take up to a maximum 12 credits of L01.690)

**Year 7**

- **Dissertation Fellowship or external grant support**
Schedule for students in the terminal AM degree program

AM students may elect either the thesis track or course-intensive (non-thesis) track. The thesis track is strongly recommended for students who aspire to continue for the PhD elsewhere, or who might eventually apply to the PhD program at Washington University. Course-intensive AM students will take a comprehensive examination late in their fourth semester.

2-year outline for thesis track: 36 credits

**Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>9 credits, including L01 510, Graduate Seminar: Methods in Art History, and another seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Year 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>9 credits. One course will be Independent Study, devoted to researching the AM thesis topic; also includes L01 510 if not taken in the first year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9 credits, including 6 credits of L01 590, Master's Research Instruction</td>
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Defense of the AM thesis before a committee of three regular faculty members constitutes the examination portion of the thesis-track AM degree.

2-year outline for non-thesis track: 36 credits

**Year 1**

<table>
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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>9 credits, including L01 510, Graduate Seminar: Methods in Art History, and another seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
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**Year 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9 credits, including 6 credits of L01 585, Master's Exam Preparation</td>
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All AM students are required to take L01 510, Graduate Seminar: Methods in Art History. This is currently offered every other fall semester. It will be offered next in Fall 2016.

There are no formal distribution requirements for course work toward the AM degree, but we encourage and advise students to consider the AM degree to reflect a broad, generalist preparation. Foreign language courses, if needed, may not be used to fulfill AM course requirements, but must be taken as an overload. Every student must either pass a departmental exam (translation and précis) in one foreign language or complete two semesters of a graduate reading course in a foreign language with a grade of B+ or better.

A maximum of one course per semester home-based in another department is permitted, subject to approval by the student's adviser and the Director of Graduate Studies as appropriate to the student's program of study.