

HA1A2-30 Introduction to Art History-I: Materials, Making, Environments

27/28

Department

SCAPVC - History of Art

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Jennifer Alexander

Credit value

30

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module is a thematic survey formed by a series of lectures and related seminars that address the fundamentals of creation in art and architecture through an exploration of materials, making and environments, from antiquity to the early modern era. These will not be limited to Western art and architecture but will take a more global and comparative approach. The lectures will follow a broadly historical sweep, while the related seminars will concentrate on issues of technique, terminology, meanings and interpretations.

Module aims

The key aim of this module is to equip students, including students who are unfamiliar with the history of art and architecture, with the ability to describe what they see – in terms of how an image, object or building is made and experienced, as well as its form and relation with the environment. Students will acquire a basic grasp of the essential areas which they will need to use as reference points for other modules in the degree. It will also provide a useful introduction to the history of art and architecture for students outside the department. Students will also gain a broadly chronological foundation of the built and visual environment, and will develop core skills of visual analysis, use of specialist vocabulary and methodology, essay writing and seminar

presentation essential to their progress.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Introduction: Origins and overview

Sacred space from Classical to Christian architecture

Materials and construction in Classical architecture

Building the medieval cathedrals

The 'Renaissance rediscovery' of Classical architecture

The Hand and Mind: Making art

Reading images

Drawing and Printmaking

Mechanical devices for creating art

Reading Week

The 'Renaissance' and the human body

Migration of ideas and artists

The 'Baroque' as a global phenomenon

Collecting art and nature

Creating material culture across the period

Materials, exploring technologies and environments

Application of object-based methodologies to specified examples

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of key artworks, monuments, practices and developments in art and architecture
- Identify and discuss materials and techniques used by craftworkers, artists and architects
- Recognise, understand and describe the form and meaning of art objects and monuments
- Situate art and architectural processes in their historical and cultural contexts (i.e. social, political, economic, religious)
- Apply specialist vocabularies and methodologies relating to the art works and monuments studied

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Completion of Art Historical Study Skills course run concurrently with this module

Subject specific skills

- Demonstrate understanding of key images and monuments and key developments in western art from antiquity to c.1600.
- Identify and discuss the material and techniques used by artists/architects etc.
- Demonstrate familiarity with a range of analytical tools to engage with more specialised, period- or genre-specific courses in the second year.
- Demonstrate visual literacy.
- Demonstrate critical analysis of cultural artefacts in their context.

Transferable skills

- With guidance, the ability to gather, select, organise and synthesise visual and textual information.
 - Present an argument, initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate.
 - Demonstrate academic skills: ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level.
 - Familiarity with essential ICT skills.
 - Ability to collaborate effectively with others.
 - Demonstrate understanding of historical context and evidence.
 - Think conceptually and critically.
 - Show understanding of diverse viewpoints.
 - Ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence.
 - Ability to formulate a sustained argument.
 - Demonstrate bibliographical and other academic skills.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (7%)
Fieldwork	1 session of 2 hours (1%)
Other activity	13 hours 30 minutes (4%)
Private study	246 hours 30 minutes (82%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Required and recommended reading for seminar preparation, research for written assessments

and revision for examinations.

Other activity description

Art Historical Study Skills

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A5

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
1500 word essay Assessed Essay	35%		No
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Study Skills Exercise Artwork Review	5%		No
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Slide Test (face to face) 2hr Image Analysis and Essay Question Exam	60%		No
Reassessment component			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Online examination			No
Image Analysis and Essay Question Exam			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and dedicated feedback tutorials

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UHAA-V401 Undergraduate History of Art
- Year 1 of UHAA-V402 Undergraduate History of Art with Intercalated Year
- Year 1 of UHAA-V3R3 Undergraduate History of Art with Italian
- Year 1 of UHAA-V3R4 Undergraduate History of Art with Italian with Intercalated Year
- RV33 BA in Italian and History of Art

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UHAA-V41P Undergraduate History of Art