DATE:  12 March 2009

TO:  Gregg Horowitz, Chair, Committee on Educational Programs (CEP)
FROM:  Vivien Green Fryd, Vice Chair, Department of History of Art
        Sheri Shaneyfelt, Director of Undergraduate Studies, History of Art
SUBJECT: Revision of requirements for the History of Art major and its “Electives” component

The faculty of the Department of History of Art propose the following changes in the rules for the History of Art major and its Electives component:

Current HART “Electives” description:
"Electives (9 hours) — three upper-level courses in history of art (HART 200 to 290) in addition to the area requirements, PHIL 240, 241, with one studio art course (ARTS) optional as an elective."

Proposed revision:
“100-level course (3 hours) — one 100-level course in history of art selected from HART 110, 111, 112 and 120. This course is not a prerequisite for additional history of art coursework but must be taken at Vanderbilt; AP and transfer credit will not be accepted.” [To appear at start of major description in catalogue, just after “Requirements for the Program of Concentration”]

"Electives (6 hours) — two upper-level courses in history of art (HART 200 to 290) in addition to the area requirements." [To appear after the “Area Requirements” and before the “Advanced Seminars,” as it currently does in the catalogue]

Current description edited to revised format:
100-level course (3 hours) — one 100-level course in history of art selected from HART 110, 111, 112 and 120. This course is not a prerequisite for additional history of art coursework but must be taken at Vanderbilt; AP and transfer credit will not be accepted.

Electives (9 6 hours) — two upper-level courses in history of art (HART 200 to 290) in addition to the area requirements. PHIL 240, 241, with one studio art course (ARTS) optional as an elective.

Rationale for Revision:
The History of Art faculty has determined that the requirement of one 100-level art history course for the major would provide geographical, chronological, and methodological breadth and diversity along with the fundamental vocabulary and diverse media in the field of art history necessary for our majors. This course must be completed on the Vanderbilt campus; AP credit and transfer credit for these courses will not be accepted.
In addition, the History of Art faculty recently voted to replace the breadth of our major from outside the department (manifest in allowing PHIL 240 and 241, as well as Art Studio courses to count as electives) with breadth within our major. This decision results from the recent and significant growth of our art-history faculty from nine members in 2004, when the department was still “Art and Art History,” to fifteen (and possibly sixteen) members for the upcoming 2009-2010 academic year. We thus can now offer more courses in Asian art history (with the addition of a specialist in South and Southeast Asian Art), Ancient art history (with two recent hires, one a specialist in Greek Art and the other in Roman Art and Architecture), and possibly also Islamic Art and Archaeology (a planned field of expansion).

Signed _________________________
Vivien Green Fryd
Vice Chair, Department of the History Art-+
The Discipline of the History of Art: In a world where images are evermore important, understanding the history and workings of visual culture has taken on an increasing urgency. The history of art is different from other historical disciplines in that it is founded on direct visual confrontation with materials that, while objects of the past, are concretely present. Students in the Department of the History of Art learn techniques for analyzing visual materials and locating them within time and place. They also investigate the factors that influence the form and direction of stylistic change (religious beliefs, economic constraints, patronage demands, technological change, and so forth). Since works of art embody human experience, we use the work of all other disciplines to understand them, such as social history, perceptual psychology, history, politics, literature, engineering, psychoanalysis, and archaeology. History of Art thus is interdisciplinary. It involves the student in the culture, languages, politics, and economics of the period in which the work was produced, as well as in its literature and religion. In the study and criticism of structures and images, students refine their powers of gathering information visually as well as verbally and make connections with a wide array of other historical evidence. Because of its concentration on the visual experience, the History of Art major increases one's ability to observe and to use those observations as the basis for critical thought.

Rationale for Changes in the Major: The Department of the History of Art voted to require one 100-level survey course for the major for a number of reasons. The department had previously required our majors to take the minimum of two 100-level survey courses in the History of Art. When we last revised our major in 2004, we thought we could drop this requirement and instead require two advanced seminars for all majors because it became evident to us that our graduating majors had not been prepared for advanced graduate study. They needed to learn in an advanced seminar how to define a research topic, accomplish the research, and write an in-depth paper in preparation for advanced graduate study not only in the History of Art, but also in other fields in the Humanities. Since we changed the major, it became apparent to us that our undergraduates indeed do need to take at least one 100-level survey course to learn important geographical, chronological, and methodological breadth and diversity along with the fundamental vocabulary and diverse media in the field of art history necessary for our majors. This was confirmed by the SACS report now required for our graduating majors; the students overwhelming requested the inclusion of survey courses in the major because they felt the breadth of material and fundamentals learned in those classes were still needed. We thus decided to require one 100-level survey course for the major. We also felt the need to require our students to take the total 30 hours needed within the department in order to learn the field fully. Since the majority of our majors are double-majors and have minors (often in studio, philosophy, history, English, economics, psychology, and etc.), we felt that they themselves would gain the interdisciplinarity through their own course schedules.
In reviewing the requirements for the major at ten peer institutions, the following generalities can be made:

1. **100-level survey courses**: Only University of Virginia and UCLA do not require any 100-level survey courses for the major. Every other institution requires either one (Yale, Emory, NYU) or two (Princeton, Duke, Washington University, Williams College). It looks like Harvard does not require a survey course, but allows at least one to count as among the four courses required numbered 1-89).

2. **Studio courses**: Only one college (Williams) requires a studio course (in drawing) for the History of Art major. Only one of these institutions allows one studio to count for the major, but it is not required (Emory), while two others (Yale and Washington University) recommend a studio course. It is possible to have a major that combines the two at some institutions, but this is a different major under the rubric of the History of Art (usually called Art History/Visual Arts major): Duke, Princeton. These institutions use the term “visual arts” to mean studio.

3. **Courses outside the department besides studio**: None of these ten institutions requires courses to be taken outside the department of Art History. Only two institutions (Yale and Princeton) allow one or two cognate courses to count, but students must petition for these courses to count for the major.

4. **Aesthetics courses**: None of the programs specify that an aesthetics course in Philosophy may count toward the art history major. At Yale and Princeton, a student could petition (I imagine since nothing says otherwise) to count a cognate course in aesthetics toward the major.

5. **Cross-listed courses**: None of these peer programs cross-list studio and/or aesthetics courses for the art history major.

6. **Comparison with A & S Humanities majors at Vanderbilt**:

   Department of Art requires 9 hours in History of Art. Most studio majors require courses in the history of art.

   Communication Studies allows courses outside the major to count for the major.

   English Program III: Specialized Critical Studies allows up to 9 hours may be taken in courses from other departments relevant to the selected concentration.

   The History Department lists courses in other departments (Jewish Studies, Classical Studies, Economics, Philosophy) that may be taken for credit toward certain concentrations (Europe and US).

**Conclusion**: The few changes we propose for our major are very much in keeping with the nature of the major at elite institutions. We do not wish to raise the number of
courses required (i.e., above 30 hours) because it would very much lower the number of history of art majors, since many would not be able to complete a double-major, and so many of our present majors are double-majors.

Below are the requirements for the other institutions:

1. **Duke University**

The major in art history requires at least eleven courses, eight of which are at the 100-level or above. Both introductory art history courses, Art History 69 and 70, are required, as well as Visual Arts 54 (Introduction to Visual Practice). The other eight courses must include at least one course in each of the following five areas: ancient, medieval, Renaissance/Baroque, modern, and non-western, and may include two courses in Visual Studies. One of the eleven courses must be a 200-level seminar.

2. **Emory University**

Forty hours including:

- Thirty-six hours (nine courses) of art history;
- Minimum sixteen hours (four courses) must be at the 300 level or above; of these four courses, at least one course (4 hours) must be at the 400-level;
- Four hours (one course) of any visual arts class.

One of the introductory survey courses (ARTHIST 101 or 102) is required, and both may be applied to the major, but not to the four divisions (see below).

Only one visual arts course may be applied to the major.

Majors will normally be required to take at least one course in each of the following four divisions:

1) Ancient Mediterranean

2) Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Europe

3) Modern and Contemporary art and architecture in Europe, the United States, Africa, and the African Diaspora

4) Ancient Americas, Africa, Islam, and Asia

3. **Harvard University**

**Basic Concentration Requirements:** 12 half-courses
• 4 introductory half-courses numbered HAA 1-89 (this includes survey courses like our 110, 111)
• 3 tutorials (HAA97r, HAA98ar, and HAA98br)
• 3 half-courses in a major field
• 2 half-courses in two different areas outside the major field

Introductory Courses: Freshmen considering concentration should normally take at least one of these in their first year, although this is not a prerequisite for concentration. No more than five of the series of courses numbered HAA1-89 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.

Tutorials: The Sophomore Tutorial, HAA97r, is a letter-graded Group tutorial. Concentrators choose one of several study groups investigating a particular field of art history. There are two mandatory Junior tutorials; HAA98ar is a letter-graded individual tutorial, consisting of weekly meetings with designated faculty. Regular reading and writing assignments are focused on a topic of mutual interest. HAA98br is a letter-graded introduction to the methods and research skills of Art History. HAA98ar and 98br need not be taken in sequential order.

4. New York University

The requirement for the major is nine 4-point courses that normally include the following:

1. Survey requirement (two from a sequence)
2. One 4-point advanced course in ancient or medieval art chosen from
3. One 4-point advanced course in Renaissance or baroque art
4. One 4-point advanced course in modern art
5. At least one 4-point course in non-Western art
6. One Senior Seminar (V43.0800)
7. Two electives chosen from any non-survey course

5. Princeton University

A total of ten courses in the Department of Art and Archaeology, including Art 400 (Junior Seminar) and at least one other 400- (or 500-) level seminar. Students must also take at least one course from five of the six distribution areas: East Asian; ancient Mediterranean; medieval/early Islamic; Renaissance/baroque/late Islamic; African/pre-Columbian; and modern/contemporary. In choosing courses to satisfy the distribution
requirement, students are encouraged to explore a variety of media (architecture, sculpture, film/photography, printmaking, painting). Thematic courses or courses that span more than one area or culture will be allocated to a distribution area on a case-by-case basis. Art 100, Art 101, and Art 102 count as departmentals but not as distribution courses.

Cognates: Of the required ten departmental courses, one or two may be cognate courses taken in other departments. Students wishing to count a cognate course must submit a syllabus to the departmental representative for approval. Courses cross-listed with the Department of Art and Archaeology automatically count as departmentals.

6. UCLA

Required Courses are: Four Art History survey courses, two Western and two non-Western, from the following eight courses: 50, 51, 54, 55A, 55B, 56A, 56B, 57:

50. Ancient Art (5)
Lecture, three hours; quiz, one hour; museum field trips. Prehistoric, Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Aegean, Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman art and architecture. P/NP or letter grading.

51. Medieval Art (5)
Lecture, three hours; quiz, two hours. Early Christian, Byzantine, Islamic, Carolingian, Ottoman, Romanesque, and Gothic art and architecture. P/NP or letter grading.

54. Modern Art (5)
Lecture, three hours; quiz, one hour; museum field trips. Social history of modern art from period of French Revolution to circa 1968. Artists and their works treated from perspective of sociopolitical and broad cultural developments. P/NP or letter grading.

55A. Introduction to Arts of Africa (5)
Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour; museum field trips. Introduction to arts and architecture of Africa. Examination of social and historical contexts of their production. Introduction to body of information within framework of conceptual problem through series of case studies. P/NP or letter grading.

55B. Introduction to Pre-Columbian Art (5)
Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour; museum field trips. Survey of sequence of cultures that developed in area between (and including) Mexico and Peru from circa 1000 B.C. to Conquest. P/NP or letter grading.

56A. Art of India and Southeast Asia (5)
Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour; museum field trips. Discussion of selection of monuments and objects from Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia using key historical, cultural, and religious concepts. Analysis of each monument or object in detail, with their relationships compared and contrasted. P/NP or letter grading.

56B. Chinese Art (5)
Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour; museum field trips. General introduction to Chinese art, covering all major periods from Neolithic to modern age. Presentation of monuments as well as artifacts in variety of media in their social and historical contexts. P/NP or letter grading.
57. Renaissance and Baroque Art and Ideology (5)
Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Survey of Renaissance and baroque art and ideology to introduce students to basic tools of stylistic and iconographical analysis. Coverage of historical development of European art and architecture over period of almost 500 years and exploration of ways in which those in religious and secular power used images to promote their particular ideologies. P/NP or letter grading.

These survey courses are sometimes prerequisites to upper division courses. These courses entail enrolling in both the lecture and discussion section. Enrollment is through the discussion section and not the lecture itself.

Required: Eleven upper division art history courses as follows:

A total of six courses (24 units) from the following 12 areas are required, distributed as follows: one course from three different areas in Group A (three courses total) and one course from three different areas in Group B (three courses total):


100. Art Historical Theories and Methodologies (4)
M101A. Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt, Predynastic Period to New Kingdom (4)
M101B. Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt, New Kingdom to Greco-Roman Period (4)
M102A. Minoan Art and Archaeology (4)
M102B. Mycenaean Art and Archaeology (4)
M102C. Archaic Greek Art and Archaeology (4)
M102D. Classical Greek Art and Archaeology (4)
M102E. Hellenistic Greek Art and Archaeology (4)
M102G. Roman Art and Archaeology (4)
M102H. Late Roman Art (4)
M102J. Classical Archaeology: Greco-Roman Sculpture (4)
M102K. Classical Archaeology: Greco-Roman Painting (4)
C103A. Museum Studies (4)
104A. Western Islamic Art (4)
104B. Eastern Islamic Art (4)
C104C. Problems in Islamic Art (4)
105A. Early Christian Art (4)
105B. Early Medieval Art (4)
105C. Romanesque Art (4)
105F. Late Gothic Art and Architecture (4)
106A. Italian Art of Trecento (4)
106B. Italian Art of Quattrocento (4)
106C. Italian Art of Cinquecento (4)
106D. Late Renaissance Art: Counter-Reformation (4)
108A. Northern Renaissance Art (4)
108B. Northern Renaissance Art (4)
108C. From Bruegel to Rubens (4)
C109A. Baroque Art (4)
109B. Baroque Art (4)
109C. European Art of 18th Century (4)
109D. Art and Architecture of Georgian England (4)
110A. European Art of 19th Century (4)
110B. European Art of 19th Century: Realism and Impressionism (4)
110C. European Art of 19th and 20th Centuries: Postimpressionism to Surrealism (4)
M110D. Cultural and Intellectual History of Modern Europe, 19th Century (4)
110E. Art and Politics in Contemporary Americas: Post-World War II U.S. Art and Politics (4)
110F. Selected Topics in Modern Art (4)
110G. Art and Politics in Contemporary Americas: Latin America (4)
C110H. Latin American Art of 20th Century (4)
C112A. American Art before Civil War (4)
C112B. American Art in Gilded Age, 1860 to 1900 (4)
C112C. American Art, 1900 to 1945 (4)
CM112D. African American Art (4)
CM112E. African American Art (4)
CM112F. Imaging Black Popular Culture (4)
113A. Architecture in U.S. (4)
114A. Early Art of India (4)
114C. Japanese Art (4)
114D. Later Art of India (4)
114E. Arts of Korea (4)
114F. Arts of Southeast Asia (4)
114G. Archaeology of Japanese Islands (4)
C115A. Advanced Indian Art (4)
C115B. Advanced Chinese Art (4)
C115C. Advanced Japanese Art (4)
C115D. Art and Material Culture, Neolithic to 210 B.C. (4)
C115E. Art and Material Culture of Early Imperial China, 210 B.C. to A.D. 906 (4)
C115F. Art and Material Culture of Late Imperial China, 906 to 1911 (4)
C115G. Art in Modern China (4)
C115I. Selected Topics in Chinese Art (4)
C117A. Pre-Columbian Art of Mexico (4)
C117B. Pre-Columbian Art of Maya (4)
C117C. Pre-Columbian Art of Andes (4)
C117D. Aztec Art (4)
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<td>118A</td>
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<td>118C</td>
<td>Arts of Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<td>118D</td>
<td>Arts of Native North America</td>
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<td>118E</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Non-Western Art</td>
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<td>C119C</td>
<td>Contemporary Arts of Africa</td>
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<td>C119D</td>
<td>Architecture and Urbanism in Africa</td>
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<td>C140C</td>
<td>History of Korean Buddhist Art</td>
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<td>Selected Topics in Korean Art</td>
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<td>C147</td>
<td>Modern Art, 1900 to 1950</td>
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<td>C149A</td>
<td>Dada, 1915 to 1923</td>
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<td>C149B</td>
<td>Surrealism, 1924 to 1939</td>
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<td>Contemporary Art, 1940s to 1950s</td>
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<td>C150B</td>
<td>Contemporary Art, 1960s to 1970s</td>
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<td>C150C</td>
<td>Contemporary Art, 1980s to Present</td>
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<td>Selected Topics in Contemporary Art</td>
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<td>History of Photography, 1839 to 1910</td>
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<td>C171B</td>
<td>History of Photography, 1910 to Present</td>
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<td>C171C</td>
<td>History of Photography: Selected Topics</td>
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<td>M172</td>
<td>Armenian Painting, 17th to 20th Century</td>
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<td>C180A</td>
<td>Art and Empire</td>
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Five art history electives selected from courses 100 through C180C are required; course 197 may also be included (none of these are surveys).

Two additional terms of a foreign language are also required, which are in addition to the College foreign language requirement. For example, if French was used to satisfy the College foreign language requirement, two terms of either advanced French or any level of a second language must be taken to satisfy the foreign language requirement for the major.

7. **University of Virginia**

There are no prerequisites for entry into the department, but most students declare a major in art history after taking one or two of the department’s introductory survey courses (ARTH 101 and 102). None of these courses, however, is required for majors.

For a degree in art history, students must complete 30 credits above the 100 level. Courses taken at any time during the student’s career can be counted, including those
earned while studying abroad, in summer session or in architectural history courses. By the time of graduation, a student must have achieved a minimum GPA of 2.0 in major courses. (A student who does not maintain an average of 2.0 or better in departmental courses will be put on probation, and may be dropped from the program.) No course graded below C- may count for major credit.

**Distribution Requirements:**
At least one course at the 200 level or above in each area (Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance/Baroque, Modern, Non-Western); a minimum of two 400 level seminars (ARTH 401 and ARTH 491); and three electives within the department. At least one of the non-seminar courses must be at the 300 or 500 level. Courses in Architectural History at the 200 level or above may fulfill any of the course requirements except the ARTH 401 and ARTH 491 seminars. One course in Studio Art at the 100 level or above may be substituted for one of the electives.

**8. Washington University St. Louis**

**Introductory Courses**
All majors should take the two one-semester “introductions,” during their freshman or sophomore years. These courses serve as prerequisites for all upper-level lecture courses. They may be taken in any sequence. No substitutes will be accepted, except for certain transfer credits.

AA111E Introduction to Asian Art (spring)
AA112E Introduction to Western Art (fall)

**Major Credit Hours**
All majors must take at least 24 upper-level (300-400) art history credits. One 200-level course may substitute for an upper-level course. Intro to World Archaeology (L52 200) does not count as an Ancient distribution (see no. 4 below) but may count toward the major. Courses taught in the Art or Architecture schools DO NOT count toward an art history major unless they are cross-listed as Art History courses. Freshman seminars will NOT count toward the major. Courses for the major may not be taken with cr/ncr or p/f option. Students must earn a grade of C- or better in all classes.

**Distribution**
Majors must take at least one upper-level course in three of the following four broad areas: (a) Ancient and Medieval (b) Renaissance and Baroque (c) Modern European and American (d) Asian.

**Seminars**
Majors must take two 400-level seminars, which are the capstone experiences of the major. These courses need to be home-based (not cross-listed from another department). The 300-level lecture courses often serve as prerequisites for these seminars. Seminars should be with two different faculty members, although they may both be in the same distribution area. These seminars are usually taken in the senior year, but may also be
taken in the junior year, if the student has the preparation appropriate to the course. The college Writing Intensive requirement should be completed prior to taking a seminar

Studio courses:

Students are also encouraged, but not required to take courses in the School of Art to learn more about the techniques of working artists.

9. Williams College

Sequence courses:
--ArtH 101-102 Introduction to Western Art History
--ArtS 100 Drawing I (or its equivalent as agreed by the department, to be taken by the end of the junior year)
--ArtH 301 Methods of Art History (ARTH 428 or ARTH 448 may be taken to satisfy this requirement)
--One Seminar or Graduate Course

Parallel courses
Any five additional semester courses of art history including three concerned with the following:
1) a period of Western art prior to 1800, 2) a period, Western or non-Western, prior to 1400, and 3) non-Western art.

10. Yale University

Number of courses: Twelve term courses
Distribution of courses: One 100-level course; two 400-level seminars; at least one 200-, 300-, or 400-level course in each of four areas; one studio art course recommended
Substitution permitted: With permission of DUS, two related courses from other departments.
Senior requirement: Senior essay (HSAR 499a or b)

Requirements of the major. All majors are encouraged to take two 100 or 200-level courses, and are required to take at least one. These courses are broad introductory surveys of the European, American, Pre-Columbian, African, and Asian traditions. Prospective majors are encouraged to take these two surveys as early in their course of study as possible. Students who have taken the Advanced Placement test in art history may be able to receive acceleration credit and should consult with the director of undergraduate studies. Students are also required to take two seminars in History of Art. These are advanced courses with limited enrollment and are numbered 402-497 (HSAR 498a or b and 499a or b are not considered seminars). Intermediate courses, usually lecture courses, are numbered 200-399. Majors must take at least one 200-, 300-, or 400-level course in each of the following four areas: (1) African, Islamic, African American, Native American, Pre-Columbian, and Asian; (2) ancient and medieval; (3) Renaissance, Baroque, and eighteenth century; (4) nineteenth- and twentieth-century European and
American. Students may propose an alternative distribution in the African, Islamic, Asian, or Pre-Columbian traditions. History of Art majors are encouraged to take at least one course in studio art, which may count toward the major. All majors must write a senior essay, usually in the fall or spring of the senior year.