

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Notre Dame, featuring a prominent large dome in the foreground and various buildings in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing text.

Art History at Notre Dame

The major, the minor, and
what you can do with them

The major

- ❖ In addition to the one course university requirement, the major in art history is 10 courses.
- ❖ Of these, the only requirements regard varying the course level at which you take classes: 2 at the 20000-level; 4 at the 30000-level or above; and 1 at the 40000-level.
- ❖ The other three are up to you. There are no requirements on how any of the courses are distributed. Instead, your advisor will help come up with an individualized curriculum that corresponds to your own interests and goals.
- ❖ This means that art history is a major which you design for yourself. Every art history major has his or her own distinctive curriculum. Many majors especially seek out classes with field trips to museums.
- ❖ It also means that art history is a maximally flexible major, and hence one that is extremely easy to combine with other programs.



What sorts of courses would I take?

Art history at Notre Dame offers an extremely wide array of courses every semester. Our offerings typically include classes in each of the following areas:

- ❖ Introductory courses that provide a broad overview of topics central to art, art history, and architecture.
- ❖ Courses on Ancient art, architecture, and archaeology in Greece, Rome, and Egypt.
- ❖ Courses on the Middle Ages, including topics such as Early Christian Rome, pilgrimages, and illuminated manuscripts.
- ❖ Courses on Renaissance and Baroque Europe, Mexico, and Latin America including indigenous traditions and their persistence in the face of colonization.
- ❖ Courses on urban studies, architectural studies, and the rise and demise of capitals like Paris, London, Rome, Madrid, Detroit and others.
- ❖ Courses on modern and contemporary art including public art, photography, performance, gender studies, and installation art.

Recent examples of intro courses include:

[Gateway to Global Art History](#)

[Introduction to Western art from Leonardo to Warhol](#)

Recent examples of ancient courses include:

[Archaeology of Pompeii and Herculaneum: Daily Life in the Ancient Roman World](#)

[Introduction to Ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt
Greek Architecture](#)

Recent examples of medieval include:

[Introduction to Early Christian and Byzantine Art](#)
[Word and Image in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts](#)
[The History of the Cross](#)

Recent examples early modern include:

[Images of Spanish America in Early Modern Europe](#)
[Italian Renaissance Art](#)
[The Northern Renaissance](#)
[Art and Architecture of Colonial Mexico](#)
[Inca and Colonial Peru](#)

Recent examples art and urbanism include:

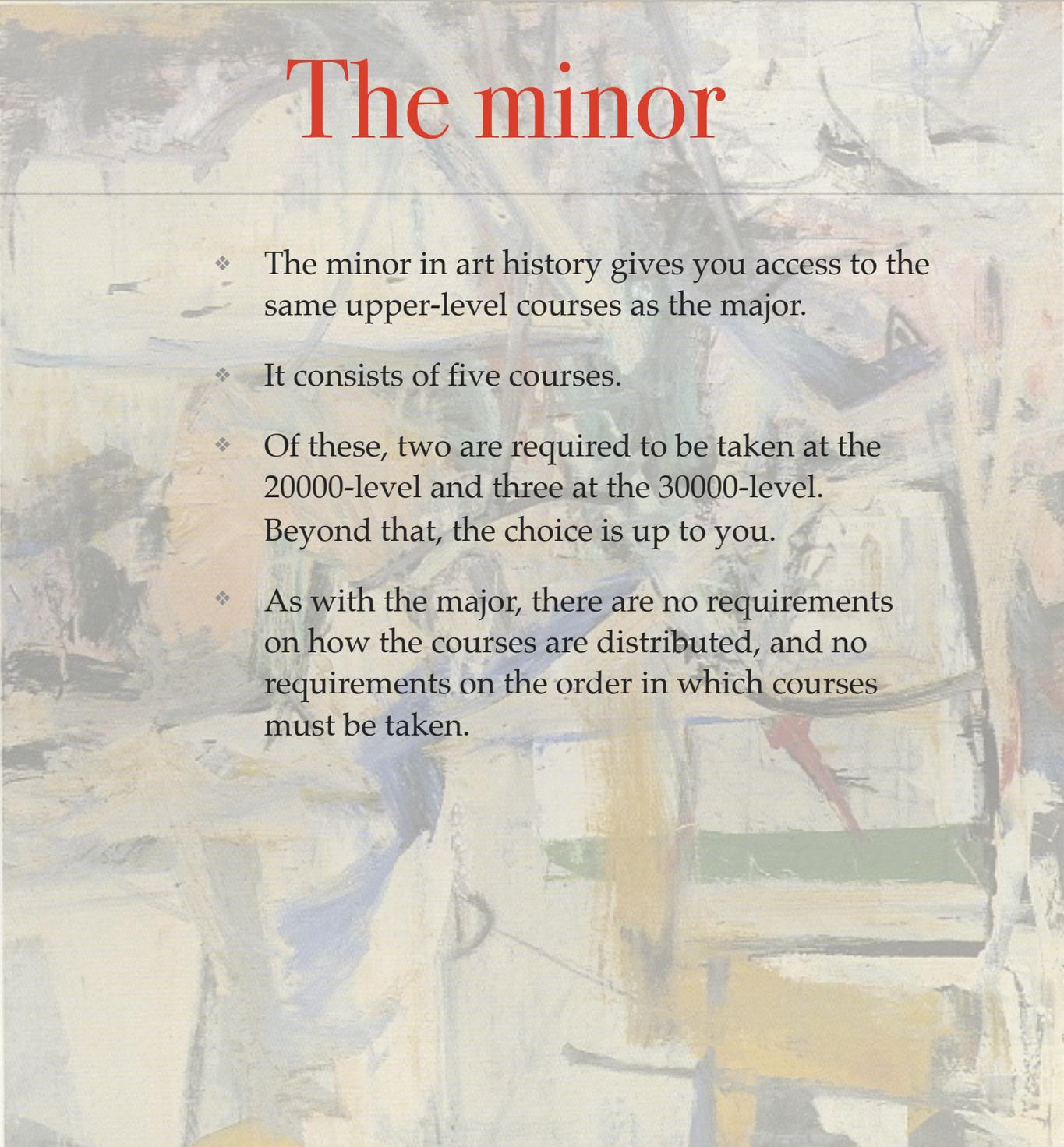
[Rome: The Eternal City](#)

[American Ruins](#)

[Building Europe: 1600-1750](#)

Recent examples of modern courses include:

[Nineteenth-Century Art](#)
[Introduction to Twentieth-Century Art](#)
[Introduction to Photography](#)
[Gender, Art, and Performance](#)
[Art, Vision, and Difference](#)
[Art and the everyday](#)

An abstract painting with various colors and brushstrokes, serving as a background for the text.

The minor

- ❖ The minor in art history gives you access to the same upper-level courses as the major.
- ❖ It consists of five courses.
- ❖ Of these, two are required to be taken at the 20000-level and three at the 30000-level. Beyond that, the choice is up to you.
- ❖ As with the major, there are no requirements on how the courses are distributed, and no requirements on the order in which courses must be taken.

Want *more or less* Art History?

Consider an Honors Track or a Second Major!

- ❖ The honors track is the same as the first major, but you have the opportunity to write a senior thesis.
 - ❖ The senior thesis is often thought of as the culminating event of the major.
 - ❖ It involves first-hand research on a self-designed topic (often at exotic places around the world).
 - ❖ The thesis allows you to work closely (one-on-one) with a professor on a project that takes place over the course of a year (and ideally begins in the spring of your Junior year).

The supplemental major in art history gives you the same access to courses and resources as the first major, but only requires a student to take eight courses in art history with the same degree of freedom in choosing how these courses are distributed.

- ❖ Like the minor, this allows for maximum flexibility and an easy combination with other majors across the university.

Should I be terrified to major in art history?

What will I do with an art history a degree?

Relax. Art history majors are a successful group of people. Here are some career thoughts to calm you and/or your parents down a little.

- ❖ Art history majors go on to pursue a number of successful careers beyond becoming art historians and teaching. Here are a few:
 - ❖ Archivist, Curator, Auction House Specialist, Gallery dealer/owner, Art educator (museum education), Private art consultant, Attorney, Museum director, Consulting associate, Business valuation associate, Development specialist for non-profit, Designer, Grant manager, Historic interpreter, Marketing consultant, Research assistant for a museum or other archive.
- ❖ Alumni from Art History at Notre Dame go on to do exciting things!
 - ❖ Mary Cecelia Mitsch, Director of Marianne Boesky East (Gallery, New York City): "Art history at Notre Dame provided an incredible platform for me to further my liberal arts studies. It piqued and satisfied my interests not only in art but also in global history and politics—they are all interrelated which the study of art points out all too well. My studies at Notre Dame ultimately let me to an incredibly rewarding career in the multi-billion dollar New York art gallery world."
 - ❖ Carly Murphy, Assistant Vice President, Contemporary Client Development, Sotheby's Auction House: "The education and exposure I received from both my art history major at the University of Notre Dame and my internships at the Snite Museum of Art laid the groundwork for my career at Sotheby's Auction House. To have come to New York after graduation, equipped with knowledge and experience that was as unique as the university itself, turned my humble beginnings in the art world into a lifelong profession and passion."
 - ❖ Caroline Maloney, MSc, Science and Business Program, Mendoza College of Business
 - ❖ Alison Muscolino, Coordinator, Women's Board, Art Institute of Chicago

But who gets a degree in art history?

Is this a respectable major?

Relax. Many famous and well respected people studied art history.

- ❖ Here are a few:
 - ❖ New York Times Journalist Jake Hooker; Anchor and business news correspondent Dawn McDowell; Political campaigner, writer and journalist Megan McCain (daughter of John McCain); Jewelry designer and business owner Jessica Kagan Cushman; Investment Banker and Vice Chairman for JP Morgan & Chase James B. Lee; Designer Tory Burch; Princess Kate Middleton
- ❖ Others study art history as a way to broaden their humanities education before attending professional school in other areas. It has been a proven strategy as a way to make an applicant stand out in their pursuit of medical school, law school, and business school:
 - ❖ Kelly Sortino (Princeton '03): "I'm convinced that being an art history major helped me stand out as an applicant to Stanford Business School. Since then, I have worked at Boston Consulting Group and Google — and no one batted an eyelash that I didn't pursue a more 'practical' major."
 - ❖ "My art history education was the first step in training my eye to recognize the recurring signatures of price movement in the financial markets," (Jamie Crapanzano '00, portfolio manager at Guggenheim Partners.)
 - ❖ "Majoring in art history brilliantly expanded my ability to solve problems in medicine," (Noted psychiatrist Jeremy Spiegel, Princeton '92.)

What will I tell my family? How can I learn more?

- ❖ Want to know more about how you might get set up for a career in art history?
 - ❖ Attend an information panel on art internships hosted by the Art History Club (TBA)
 - ❖ Come to our Departmental Open Houses - offered in both the Fall and Spring each year (Date TBA).
 - ❖ Join a club or a non-credit course: the Art History Club, for instance, or PhotoFutures at the Snite Museum to learn about the role of photography in museum collections.
 - ❖ Consider a CUSE (ISLA, or Nanovic, etc.) grant to pursue a research project around the world!
 - ❖ Visit this page to see more on careers in art history:
 - ❖ <https://www3.nd.edu/~crosenbe/jobs.html>
 - ❖ Email an art historian! You can come see me, Elyse Speaks, as the undergrad advisor (espeaks@nd.edu) or any other faculty member whose path you might have come across.