



PROGRAM GUIDE

TO

GRADUATE STUDIES

IN

ART HISTORY



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST



GRADUATE FACULTY of the PROGRAM in ART HISTORY

Walter B. Denny, Professor
Ph.D., Harvard, 1971
Islamic, Methods, Museum Studies

Kristine E. Haney, Professor
Ph.D., NYU, 1978
Medieval, Decorative Arts

Laetitia La Follette, Associate Professor
Ph.D., Princeton, 1986
Ancient Art and Archaeology, Art History and Cybertechnology

William T. Oedel, Associate Professor
M.A., Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, 1973; Ph.D., Delaware, 1981
American, Decorative Arts, Museum Studies

Mario Ontiveros, Assistant Professor
Ph.D, UCLA, 2005
Modern, Contemporary

Timothy M. Rohan, Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Harvard, 2001
American and European Architecture

Monika Schmitter, Associate Professor
Ph.D., Michigan, 1997
Italian Renaissance and Baroque, Patronage and Collecting, Gender Theory

J. Leonard Benson, Professor Emeritus
Ph.D., Basel
Ancient Art and Archaeology, Decorative Arts

Craig Harbison, Professor Emeritus
Ph.D., Princeton, 1972
Northern European, Methods, History of Prints

Anne Mochon, Associate Professor Emeritus
Ph.D., Yale, 1973
Modern, Contemporary

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST
DEPARTMENT OF ART, ARCHITECTURE AND ART HISTORY**

GUIDE to the MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM in ART HISTORY

The purpose of the Master of Arts Program in Art History is to provide for advanced students of art history a course of study that will allow them to develop a high degree of professional competence and a broad foundation for further work in the discipline.

Enrollment in the Program does not exceed thirty students. There are presently 7 full-time art history faculty on the Amherst campus. This small size and advantageous student/faculty ratio give the Program many strengths. Founded in 1969, the M.A. Program is the only broadly-based, publicly-funded graduate degree program in the field in New England. We prepare students for doctoral study and provide professional training for many careers, including museum and historical society work, governmental programs in the arts, the art market, journalism, and teaching at all levels.

Acceptance in the Program

Applicants to the M.A. Program submit an application form, two letters of recommendation, transcripts of academic work, GRE scores and a writing sample (7-20 pages). A faculty committee evaluates this information, giving priority to the candidate's overall academic background in the humanities, foreign language competency, letters of recommendation, and motivation and interest.

All those admitted to the Program should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to determine eligibility for financial aid, including work-study. In their first semester students are not normally awarded financial assistance, but often receive support for their three subsequent semesters. Eligible entering students may also receive support through the Office of Minority Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention.

Degree Coursework Requirements and Guidelines

- I. A minimum of 30 graduate-level credits are required for the M.A. degree
- II. These credits are to be distributed in the following way:
 1. 4 graduate seminars (700 level) in the UMass Art History program (one of which must be the Methods seminar (Art Hist 781) which is taken in the first year.)
You must take 1 seminar per semester until this requirement is satisfied.
 2. 3 additional classes, one in each of the following areas:
 - a. Pre-Modern European Art (before 1750)
 - b. Modern Art in Europe and/or America (1750 to the present)
 - c. Non-Western Art

3. 3 graduate level electives, one of which may be outside Art History

It is strongly recommended that students take at least 3 courses in their Major field of study and 2 courses in their Minor (see section on M.A. Exam below).

- III. A full-time course load as defined by the Graduate School is 9 credits. If a student is holding a teaching assistantship, auditing a number of courses, or studying for the M. A. Exam, six credits may qualify as full-time. The Graduate Program Director (GPD) must approve all proposed courses of study.
- IV. From time to time, students have elected to take additional courses for audit credit, as opposed to full credit. This is particularly useful in preparing for the Image Exam (described below). Official audits appear on the transcript, but do not count towards the degree requirements stated above. The minimum standard for an audit is regular attendance, with no absences. The permission of the instructor is needed, and students should be sure to check with the individual instructor to determine what constitutes an audit in each case. Furthermore, while the graduate school allows for a change from graded credit to an audit up until the last day of classes, the student must have the permission of the instructor and be passing the course at that point. The last day for graduates to drop a class (appears as DR on transcript) is listed yearly on the academic calendar.
- V. No more than 6 credits of Independent Study may be counted toward the 30 hours for the degree, although students are encouraged to pursue individualized work.
- VI. The University allows transfer of up to 6 credits of graduate work at another institution or 6 credits done as a non-degree graduate student on campus (provided that the student registered for the course through the Graduate School). The individual petition to the GPD accomplishes the transfer.

Graduate Student Advising

In the first year of study, during Counseling Week each semester each student consults with the GPD about his/her schedule. The GPD will help students to balance their level of preparation and interests with the general requirements and pattern of offerings.

At the end of the first year, graduate students select a faculty advisor in their major field of study. The faculty advisor serves as chair of the student's M.A. Examination committee, discusses coursework with him/her, considers whether the publishable paper option is appropriate, and offers career counseling.

Foreign Language Requirement

For most careers in art history, a knowledge of foreign languages, especially French and German, is extremely important and often a fundamental requirement. Students in the M.A. Program are expected to read in a foreign language in connection with their academic work, especially in seminars.

A reading knowledge of French, German, or Italian must be demonstrated in order to receive the M.A. degree, and a language examination must be passed before the student is eligible to take the M.A. Examination. In special cases, students may petition for recognition of another language, directly related to research in their field of interest, in fulfillment of the requirement.

The written examination requires translating a selected passage of art-historical writing into English. The passage must be translated in one hour with the use of a regular college-style dictionary. Students are not

allowed to use electronic equipment of any kind. The GPD administers the examination once at the beginning of each semester. Individual exams will not be given for students who do not pass at the beginning of the semester. All students are required to take the examination during their first semester and subsequently until they have passed it. The faculty considers language proficiency in making awards for Teaching Assistantships.

Students who do not pass the exam at once are required to take for credit or officially audit a language course during their first semester. They must continue to take language courses or other concrete steps toward learning a language until the requirement is met.

Examinations for the M.A. Degree

There is no thesis requirement for the M.A. in Art History. Instead there are two written exams, the Image Exam and the Essay Exam, both of which are offered twice a year.

I. The Image Exam will be given on the second or third Saturday of each semester. Students are expected to take it at the beginning of their third semester in the program. There are two parts to the Exam:

A. 16 Image Identifications (5 minutes each)

Students must identify and write cogently about each image, which will be chosen from a list of about 200 works of art in a wide range of fields. The list of works for the following year will be made available in February. Graduate students will be responsible for finding the images and doing research on them, whether or not they were covered in their coursework. Responses to the images must demonstrate a knowledge appropriate for a graduate level exam.

B. 5 Unknown Images (15 minutes each)

Students will be shown 7 unknown images (one selected by each faculty member). They must identify and write about 5 out of the 7. The unknowns will be given to the students during the Exam in the form of color reproductions.

Students must pass the Image Exam in order to take the Essay Exam in the following semester.

Please note: no portion of the Image Exam can be rewritten, but a student may retake the entire Image Exam once. In this circumstance, the student may take the Image Exam and the Essay Exam in the same semester.

II. The Essay Exam is normally given the first Saturday in November in the Fall, and the last Saturday in March in the Spring). In the first week of the semester during which a student plans to take the Essay examination, the student must provide the GPD with a list of coursework to be counted for the degree. At this time, the student will declare a major and a minor field of concentration; the major and minor fields must be chosen from two different broader areas (these are European Art pre-1750, European/American Art post-1750, and Non-Western Art). The student must also select two members from the faculty as an examining committee with one serving as chairperson. A third member will be appointed by the faculty if there is a tie vote in scoring the Essay Exam. The members of the committee usually represent the major and minor areas to be covered.

The Exam consists of at least 3 essay questions in each of the fields listed below. Students must answer two questions in their Major field and one question in the Minor field. Each essay is one hour long and is written by hand (without the use of a computer). Upon request students may consult a sample examination in the Graduate Program Director's office.

Fields in the Pre-Modern European Art (to 1750) Area:

Ancient

Medieval

Italian Renaissance and Baroque

Fields in Modern European/American Art and Architecture (1750 to the present) Area:

American (Colonial to World War II)

European/American Art, 1880 to the present

19th and 20th century Architecture in Europe and America

Fields in Non-Western Art:

Islamic

Other fields may be selected or further refined with faculty consent.

Please note: no portion of the Essay Exam can be rewritten, but a student may retake the entire Exam once. Students must achieve a B or better on all portions of the Exam to pass.

Publishable Paper Option: In exceptional cases, students who have carried a research project to a sufficient state of completion may be nominated by a faculty member to submit a “publishable paper” in place of the written examination in the Major field (the student must still answer a question in a minor field). The student and faculty member will reach an agreement about this by the first day of classes in the student’s second year in the program. The student will provide the professor with an abstract of the project, which the professor will present for approval to the rest of the faculty by the second faculty meeting of the semester. A draft of the final paper must be completed and distributed to all exam committee members by the beginning of the term the student plans to graduate. The final draft is due to all members of the student’s committee at least two weeks before the date of the Essay Exam.

III. The Oral Examination is a defense of the Essay Examination and an overview of the student’s participation in the program. Once students are notified that they have passed the Essay Exam, they will arrange immediately with the committee for the scheduling of the oral examination (usually about a week after the Essay Exam), keeping in mind the Graduate School notification of graduation deadline. The oral examination normally is about an hour long. Students will be notified if they have passed the entire exam at the end of the oral.

After all the oral examinations are over, the faculty as a whole will determine which students will be awarded “Distinction” for their performance on the Exam and in the program in general. “Distinction” is awarded only in exceptional circumstances.

Library Resources

The University Library has arranged the 9th floor of the W.E.B. DuBois Library as an Art Library. The collection is strong, containing around 80,000 volumes. The libraries at Amherst, Mount Holyoke, and especially Smith College complement the University’s holdings, and the delivery of books not available at the University can be requested through Five College Delivery (FCD). Graduate students at the University have access to these libraries and other major art libraries in New England, such as the facility at the Clark Art Institute in

Williamstown Massachusetts.

Since the University is part of a large Boston-based consortium of Massachusetts schools, students have ready access through interlibrary loan to great numbers of books in addition to the almost six million items on the Amherst campus. The excellent University Interlibrary Loan Service is heavily subsidized so the cost to the borrower is minimal.

Resources in the Five Colleges Consortium

Courses in art history or a related field taken at Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges can be included in a student's program and counted as the equivalent of a 600-level graduate course at the University, provided that they are above the introductory level and the instructor verifies completion of graduate work in writing. The Five College System allows an unusual breadth of course offerings and areas of faculty specialization. Graduate students are required to consult with the GPD before registering for Five College Courses.

Opportunities for Foreign Study

The University supports a number of foreign exchange programs in which graduate students may participate. Particularly suitable because of strong course offerings in art history or related areas are the summer program at Oxford and the academic year exchange available through the Freiburg/Baden-Württemberg Program. The latter allows graduate study in art history at reasonable cost at the universities of Freiburg, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, and Tübingen, among others. Many other opportunities are available through the International Programs Office on campus. Students who expect to complete the M.A. Program in two years should *not* consider foreign study.

Museum Studies and Internships

The Art History Program is committed to offering students special opportunities in museum-related areas. A Museum Studies Seminar is regularly offered, taking full advantage of the rich and varied collections in New England. The University has internship arrangements with the museums at Amherst, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges. The Museum of Fine Arts and George Walter Vincent Smith Museum in Springfield, Worcester Art Museum, and the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford also provide valuable internship possibilities. Graduate students have completed internships at Historic Deerfield and other area historic sites, and have won places in competitive summer internship programs at major museums in Boston, New York, and Washington.

The Paul F. Norton Internship at the North Carolina Museum of History is a paid summer internship for students in the program awarded on a competitive basis. Applications for the internship are due in early March.

The University supports an art gallery with a permanent collection, especially strong in 20th century works on paper. The University Gallery mounts a number of significant contemporary exhibitions during the year, often composed of site-specific works. Several recent M.A. candidates have curated their own exhibitions in the Gallery. Student-run galleries on campus also provide opportunities for students interested in producing exhibitions. From time to time, campus galleries offer internships that carry a stipend and tuition waiver. Many of our graduates have successfully pursued museum work after finishing the degree.

Teaching Assistantships and Fellowships

The faculty in the Art History program firmly believe that an essential part of training at the Masters level is learning how to communicate art historical concepts effectively to the next generation. To that end, Teaching Assistantships involve undergraduate teaching, especially at the introductory survey level, either as a grader (for Art History 115 or 191A) or as a discussion leader and grader (for Art History 100, 110 and 324). All Masters students are expected to master the use of new digital technologies for their own coursework and teaching responsibilities. The faculty's commitment to educating the public beyond the walls of academe is evident in their involvement in exhibition and museum work, the reviewing and contributing to major survey textbooks in the field and the thoughtful development of educational software for Art History, using the University's OWL (Online Web-based Learning) system.

Between 8 and 15 teaching assistantships are available to graduate students within the program each semester. These are normally awarded to students who have completed at least one semester. Assistantships involve 10-14 hours of work per week and carry a stipend plus a full tuition waiver and partial payment of the University health fee. Qualified students receive support for three of their four semesters in the Program.

Assistants are normally assigned to the following courses:

Art History 100 and 110, a two-semester survey in which the TAs lead discussion sections and grade written work.

Art History 115 - Introduction to the Visual Arts, for which grading and advising are required.

Art History 191A – Introduction to Architecture and the Built Environment, for which grading and advising are required.

Art History 324 - Modern Art, in which assistants lead discussions and grade written work.

Qualified graduate students also assist in Art History 370-the Junior Year Writing course.

Assistantships in the Image Collection Library are available for the support of particular classes in the undergraduate General Education curriculum; for these, computer skills are helpful. Additional teaching assistantships are available in the University Writing Program and various foreign language departments.

Duties of teaching assistants are specified at the beginning of each semester (see handbook for New Instructors issued by the Center for Teaching, which you should receive at your TA orientation session). A student who fails to complete work for an incomplete grade within the following semester is not allowed to hold an assistantship, since the faculty's policy is that assistantships are assigned to students making satisfactory progress towards the degree. Students who fail the language exam three times will not receive an assistantship for the same reason.

Each year the Graduate School awards a limited number of Fellowships. These involve no teaching duties and include a tuition waiver and a stipend. They are highly competitive; eight of the faculty's nominees since 1989 have been recipients of these awards.

Review of Work Standards

The entire faculty reviews and evaluates the work of all graduate students during the semester. In the Art History Program a grade of C+ or below is considered an unsatisfactory performance.

The grade of INC (incomplete) is given when a student has failed to complete all assigned work satisfactorily by the end of the semester. This grade is given in limited circumstances, and only for compelling reasons, either personal or academic. Once the grade of INC is given, the student's top academic priority is to complete the work involved. Students with three or more incompletes may not register for additional courses and may not take the Essay Examination until all INC's are completed and are erased from the record.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of our program have gone on to careers in many fields. Some have taken advanced degrees in art history or conservation before teaching at a university level or working in museums. Others have begun both secondary and college teaching. Our graduates have also become art editors, art librarians, slide curators, art dealers, and advocates of government programs.

Job opportunities are posted regularly, and faculty make a special effort to inform students about appropriate positions and give them suitable recommendations. The Graduate Newsletter published annually gives a good idea of the jobs and careers in which University art history alumni have excelled over the years. From time to time, the Program sponsors lectures by alumni who are happy to talk with current students about their career experiences.

Research Possibilities

The Graduate School has funding for research travel and the presentation of papers by graduate students whose applications are supported by the student's department or program. The Art History Program also has two internal funds for support named for two deceased alumni: the Stephen Keye Fund for conference travel, and the Maura Donohue fund for research travel.

Image Collection Library

The Image Collection Library (ICL) evolved from the Art History Program's Dorothy Perkins Slide Library to assist the Art History faculty and students in the transition from analog to digital image technologies in the classroom. While the ICL is a branch of the library in the University Library system serving the campus community, its primary responsibility is to support art history course needs. There are currently two staff members: Brian Shelburne, Head Librarian, and Steven Folsom, Metadata Librarian.

The Library provides several systems and collections for using digital images on campus. Luna Insight is a database and presentation tool that builds upon the collection of images created from the Perkins slide library. In addition, to our local collection, Luna users may access approximately 250,000 images licensed through the Library. ARTstor is another image database that offers close to one million images contributed by organizations and individuals throughout the United States. For more information on either of these systems, or on how the Image Collection Library can help provide images in academic endeavors, please contact the Librarians.

Graduate Student Life

While the primary efforts of graduate students focus on academic activities, the Program, University, and Five College community provide enormous opportunities for social and cultural enrichment. The University's extensive programs are available to all students at reduced cost. Departmental social events vary from

receptions following lectures to the traditional potluck dinners held once a semester. On campus, the Alumni Lounge in Bartlett Hall forms the focus of social activities and serves as a lunch and study room for both graduate students and faculty. The Graduate Student Senate supports a wide variety of programs and activities for graduate students. More information can be found in the pages of the Graduate School Bulletin.

Other Resources

The Graduate School of the University of Massachusetts Amherst publishes the Graduate Student Handbook. It is an invaluable guide regarding the policies and procedures of the University Graduate School, containing key information regarding such topics as which forms to file, statutes of limitations, committee formation, deadlines and timelines. It is provided to all students confirming admission to the University's graduate programs.

Teaching Assistants are members of the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO), a union which publishes its own guide for members.

The Center for Teaching also organizes an annual Teaching Assistant Orientation every fall, which provides the opportunity to meet key administrators, senior TAs and faculty to gain important skills and to begin to feel a sense of membership within the larger University community of scholars.

How to reach us

The Art History Program maintains its own Home Page on the World Wide Web; this can be accessed either through the University's home page: **[http:// www.umass.edu](http://www.umass.edu)**

through the Dept. of Art, Architecture and Art History: <http://www.umass.edu/art/>

or directly: [http:// www.umass.edu/arthist](http://www.umass.edu/arthist)

A wide variety of information on the University, the Art History Program, its courses, faculty and resources is available on line.

The Art History Program can be reached directly by telephone at (413) 545-3595, Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Director of the Graduate Program for 2008-2009 is Professor Monika Schmitter, who can be reached at: mschmitt@arthist.umass.edu

Art History Program Teaching Assistantship Expectation Agreement

Congratulations _____ (student name)! You have been awarded a TAship for the Fall/ Spring 200__ (year) semester. This runs for 19 weeks from _____ to _____ (dates).

We ask that you assist Professor _____ (or Brian Shelburne) in (course name and number or Image Collection Library)_____.

The stipend of your TAship is _____ (amount), which will be paid to you biweekly during the fall/spring of 200___. You are required to earn a minimum of 6 credits in the semester covered under this contract in courses approved by the Graduate Program Director. (Audits do not earn credit.)

Such TAships are competitive, and are an indication of the Art History Faculty's belief in your promise and performance in the Masters Program. In the interests of clarity, we ask that you carefully read the following statement of expectation and sign below as representation of your understanding of the responsibilities you are agreeing to undertake by accepting this position.

This TAship will require of you the following, on average each week: (breakdown of duties and number of hours as per job description). You are expected to fulfill these duties during the time span of your appointment, and to keep track of your hours. The making up of hours after the term of the contract is strongly discouraged, and may be permitted in extreme circumstances only with prior permission of your supervisor.

A written evaluation of your performance will be made at the end of your appointment. Such evaluations are taken seriously in the awarding of future TA positions. We recommend you consult the copy in your file.

As a TA, you represent the Art History Program to the University community. Your hard work is vital to making that community of learning inclusive and one of mutual respect.

By signing here, I indicate my understanding of and agreement to the above conditions:

Signature

Date

Coursework requirements for M.A. program
for students entering the program as of Fall 2007

1. Four depth classes (includes Methods and seminars in the program)

2. Three breadth classes, one in each of the following areas:

Premodern (before 1750) Europe _____

Modern (1750 to the present) Europe/America _____

Other _____

3. Three electives, one of which may be outside Art History:

For the M.A. Exam you must prepare both a Major and a Minor field of study. It is therefore recommended that you take at least two courses in your Minor field and three courses in your Major field.