



# UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy

Information for Stage 1 (First Year) BA Students (DN520)

2019/20

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**Art History is a dynamic, ever-changing subject that is intrinsically inter-disciplinary in nature.** It analyses the complex relationship that exists between visual art and society both across the centuries and in the contemporary moment. Art History enables us to understand the environments we inhabit, including how and why they have been constructed and what cultural meanings are embedded in them or have accrued in them over time. The School nurtures an understanding of the role and value of visual art and architecture in cultural life, both past and present. It offers a varied and diverse curriculum that includes the study of Irish, European, American and non-Western art and architecture, in addition to a wide range of media such as painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, architecture, video and performance.

**Our teaching programme** seeks to foster original thought, interpretative and analytical skills, critical enquiry, and visual acuity. We encourage our students to examine artworks critically and understand the conditions of their making, meaning and influences, as well as to consider the process of looking itself. Students are enabled to interpret and assess the meaning, development, context and quality of works of art of different ages using a range of methodologies and approaches including conceptual and historical analysis. The programme teaches students to learn from images and patterns; to consider formalist aspects such as composition, style and iconography as well as technical material. In order to teach these skills, the programme uses a diverse range of teaching and learning methods such as lectures, small group teaching, web-based learning, field trips and site visits.

## Stage 1 LECTURE MODULES

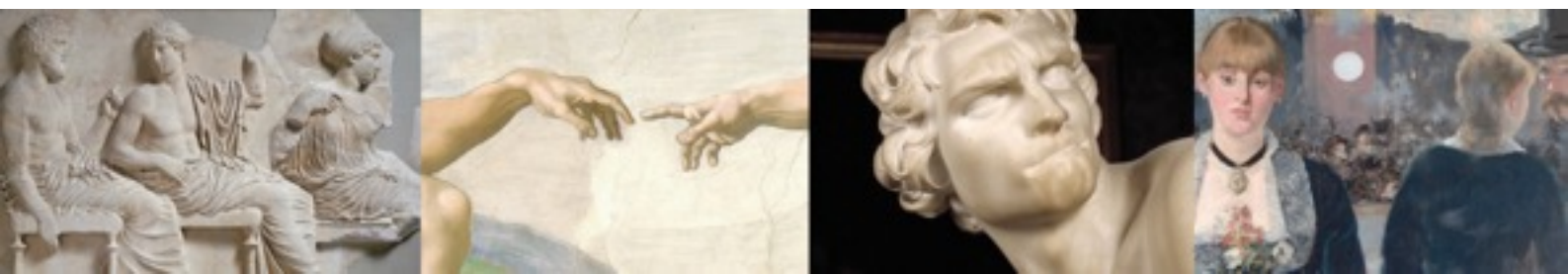
**Stage 1 Art History offers four stimulating courses** that collectively provide an analysis of the key movements, artists, artistic traditions and issues that have resonated and evolved throughout European art from Antiquity to the early 20th century, and a foundation for the theories that underpin Art History as a discipline.

| <u>Trimester 1</u>  | <u>Trimester 2</u>  |
|---|---|
| AH10130 <b>The Art of the Ancient and Medieval World</b>      | AH10140 <b>The Baroque to Romanticism: European art 1600-1850</b> |
| AH10120 <b>The Art of the Renaissance: reform and rebirth</b> | AH10150 <b>The Modern World 1848-1914</b>                         |

**At Stage 1 (First Year)** there is one core module, AH10130 (The Art of the Ancient and Medieval World) which is a requirement for all students who wish to progress in Art History.

**Students who intend to take Art History as a Joint Major in their BA degree** must take AH10130 and at least one of the remaining three Stage 1 modules. Students are strongly advised to take as many of the Stage 1 modules as possible to give them a solid foundation for the further study of Art History. Students are also strongly advised not to take any Stage 2 (or higher) Art History modules until they have completed their Stage 1 Art History requirements.

On completing Stage 1 students take a range of survey modules and more specialised modules at Stage 2 and subsequently Stage 3/4, which deepen their understanding of the various epochs of art. These modules are designed to enable students develop a diverse set of abilities in order to comprehend our visual and artistic heritage, critically examine artworks and understand the conditions of their making, meaning and influences.



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## STAGE I MODULES

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All Stage I modules are worth 5 credits and each comprises 2 lectures per week and small-group tutorials. Emphasis is placed on active student participation and on independent reading and study. Tutorials will incorporate site/ gallery visits so that students have the opportunity to engage with works of art in the original.

### AH10130 **The Art of the Ancient and Medieval World**

(Assoc. Prof. Lynda Mulvin)

Trimester 1      Mon & Wed @ 9:00am + 6 tutorials in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11

This module acts as an introduction to the art of the Ancient and Medieval World, from the 5th century BC to the first millennium AD. This period reflects extraordinary cultural achievements of European art with particular focus on the Classical world of ancient Greece and Rome. The word 'classical' refers to the ideals of harmony, beauty and proportion that were developed in ancient Greece and Rome and that have continued to influence and inform the history of art throughout the ages.

The achievements of the classical period were continued in the East in the art of Byzantium and later, in the West, classical influences were to have a marked impact on the medieval period. This module seeks to place individual works of art in their wider historical and cultural context.

### AH10120 **The Art of the Renaissance: reform and rebirth**

(Dr Philip Cottrell)

Trimester 1      Tue @ 11:00am & Thurs @ 12:00pm + 6 tutorials in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12

This module acts as an introduction to European renaissance art c.1300-1600, with a particular focus on Italy. This immensely fertile period witnessed the emergence of the first great personalities of Western art, including Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, Albrecht Dürer, Hieronymous Bosch, and Pieter Bruegel. As well as profiling the careers of these and many other notable figures, this module will seek to place individual works of art in their wider historical and cultural context.

We shall analyse the traditional meaning of the Renaissance as a period of 'rebirth' founded upon a revival of interest in the art and culture of the ancient world. Many of the notions governing our perception of the artist's role in society stem from the Renaissance, and as we explore changing patterns of artistic production, techniques and patronage, a dramatic story begins to unfold: the artist's struggle to win greater social, professional and intellectual esteem.

### AH10140 **The Baroque to Romanticism: European art 1600-1850**

(Assoc. Prof. John Loughman)

Trimester 2      Tue @ 11:00am & Thurs @ 12:00pm + 6 tutorials in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11

This module serves as an introduction to European art and architecture between 1600 and 1850. This was a period of extraordinary political, religious and social upheaval. These transformations, many of them inspired by Enlightenment principles, were reflected in the production and market for art.

This is also a story of shifting artistic styles, from Baroque to Rococo to Neoclassicism to Romanticism. However, rather than looking at this period as primarily a succession of styles and pivotal artists, this module will take a more thematic and critical approach. Among the areas to be explored will be the rise of academies, the impact of the Counter Reformation, gender and art, and the emergence of new pictorial genres.

### AH10150 **The Modern World 1848-1914**

(Dr Róisín Kennedy)

Trimester 2      Tue & Fri @ 1:00pm + 6 tutorials in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12

The course examines the key developments in Western art from 1848 to the outbreak of World War One in 1914. This period saw the beginnings of modern art, when traditional practices of making and viewing art were challenged. Industrialisation brought rapid social changes that impacted dramatically on how the world was experienced and understood.

The module concentrates on Paris, the centre of the modern art world, which saw the development of Realism, Impressionism and Cubism. Lectures also consider the impact of modernity and urbanisation on British, Austrian, German and Russian art. The influence of photography, non-Western art and spiritualism is addressed.