

HAA 1010: Approaches to Art History **The Research and Writing Seminar for HAA Majors**

All HAA majors are required to take the capstone w-course, HAA 1010. (Architectural Studies majors can elect to take this course as one of their architectural history course requirements if a topic arises that is of interest to them.) This course is offered every fall and spring semester. The course is circulated among various faculty members. Depending on which faculty member is teaching the course in a given semester, the topic of the course changes.

In the recent past, 1010 seminars have been offered on the following topics: Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Gendered Space in the Ancient Greek City, the Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning, Monuments and Memorials in Washington DC, Architecture and Urban Planning in Modern Berlin, Expressionism, Pilgrimage, and Renaissance Portraiture.

Each semester, students should investigate the particular topics that will be on offer in upcoming HAA 1010 sections. Students are advised to select a topic that is of interest to them (and pay particular attention to the correct section/CRN number when enrolling). HAA 0101: Foundations in Art History is the pre-requisite for HAA 1010.

*Students are advised to take the HAA 1010 seminar in their **junior year**, for the following reasons:*

- HAA 1010 requires that students produce a substantive research paper.
- Often these research projects lead to future independent study or honors thesis projects, where sustained mentoring relationships are established with a faculty member.
- Students have won writing competition prizes for HAA 1010 papers. The department's Frick Fine Arts writing award, the Medieval and Renaissance Studies paper prize, the Women's Studies paper prize, and the Ossip Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Writing have all been won by our students who have submitted 1010 papers.
- Students have been able to present 1010 papers at research symposia and conferences (at Case Western Reserve University, West Virginia University, Bowling Green University, and at NCUR – the National Conference for Undergraduate Research).
- Students applying to graduate and professional schools and programs often use HAA 1010 papers for the required writing sample.

Thus HAA 1010 can serve as a vital opportunity for you. If undertaken early enough, longer term independent research projects can result as can important resume building opportunities and sustained relationships with faculty who might serve as a future reference/recommender for you.

Because of this, HAA majors often elect to enroll in more than one HAA 1010 section while in our program, particularly when a new topic arises that is of interest to them, or they desire to work more closely with a particular faculty member. If a student takes an HAA 1010 class a second time, this second section can be applied to additional major requirements (i.e. count as an additional 1000-level class).

Each HAA 1010 section is limited to 15 students, and is taught in a seminar format, usually reliant upon class discussion. Students can expect to have a heavier required reading responsibility each week.

HAA 1010 Course Objectives

As the capstone research seminar required of all HAA majors and as a 'w-course' recognized by the School of Arts and Sciences, each student in the class will hone his or her research skills and produce a substantive research paper. Students will work to develop a critically informed interpretation of the topic at hand and their ability to present their ideas to an audience and defend an argument. As such, this course will enable students to improve skills that are fundamental to any professional goal they pursue upon graduation: critical thinking, research, and written and oral communication. Specifically, this course will provide students with:

Critical thinking skills:

- develop an awareness of different interpretive approaches to art history and an understanding of the historical circumstances under which such approaches became manifest
- ability to analyze a variety of texts and sources critically, recognizing the method employed by the author as well as how the argument is constructed
- ability to formulate their own interpretive perspective, developing an informed critical voice that is ultimately demonstrated in a substantive research paper

Research skills:

- explore primary and secondary source material in their research topic, be able to discern the differences between them, and skillfully employ each effectively as they construct their own argument
- gain competency in using the essential research databases and encyclopedias in the field
- gain competency in building a bibliography that is applicable and useful for the research topic at hand through a variety of library resources
- properly document their research sources through footnotes and a bibliography in a format that is applicable to the field

- the ability to synthesize a large body of research material into a coherent thesis

Communication skills:

- in written work:
 - develop a persuasive and compelling thesis around which the student's research is structured
 - skillfully employ evidence, both visual and textual, to develop a critical voice and support a thesis
 - articulate the thesis and supporting ideas in a paper that is clearly organized
 - articulate the thesis in a critical voice that demonstrates creativity and originality
 - students will develop their oral communication skills throughout the semester in informal class discussion, short presentations, or formal presentations, using visual resources to support their ideas.