Course guide
804321 - HDA-A - History of Art

Last modified: 18/05/2026

Unit in charge: Image Processing and Multimedia Technology Centre
Teaching unit: 804 - CITM - Image Processing and Multimedia Technology Centre.

Degree: **Academic year:** 2026 **ECTS Credits:** 6.0
Languages: Catalan

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: Gracia Valladares, Marta
Gines Bataller, Laura

Others: Gracia Valladares, Marta

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Specific:
CEAAD 1. Analyse the history and evolution of digital art, and identify the various styles and periods of aesthetic and cultural values in society.

Transversal:
02 SCS. SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT. Being aware of and understanding the complexity of social and economic phenomena that characterize the welfare society. Having the ability to relate welfare to globalization and sustainability. Being able to make a balanced use of techniques, technology, the economy and sustainability.
07 AAT. SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING. Detecting gaps in one's knowledge and overcoming them through critical self-appraisal. Choosing the best path for broadening one's knowledge.
06 URI. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES. Managing the acquisition, structure, analysis and display of information from the own field of specialization. Taking a critical stance with regard to the results obtained.
03 TLG. THIRD LANGUAGE. Learning a third language, preferably English, to a degree of oral and written fluency that fits in with the future needs of the graduates of each course.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The two-hour class sessions are divided, in general, into four strands of activity:
1. Resolution of doubts of the exercises proposed in the previous session.
2. Explanation and defense of the exercises solved.
3. Explanation of new knowledge.
4. Explanation of the next exercise and complementary materials.
5. Completion of the exercise.
These ranges of activity are adapted according to the complexity of the exercises and the corresponding contents.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

1. To identify the main aesthetic concepts and their social applications throughout the history of culture and art.
2. To show knowledge and to temporize the evolution of different aesthetics, realistic, expressionist and abstraction, and show ability to analyze and apply this knowledge in research and teaching digital art.
3. To be able to establish the relation of art, with technology and science, from photography and cinematography to electronic and digital art.
4. To show ability to analyze aesthetic changes based on the evolution of the tools and the work processes associated with them.
5. To show ability to identify the main artistic movements, their interrelation and ability to understand and apply multiculturalism in the digital field.
6. To show ability to analyze the evolution of museography as conservation of artistic heritage and ability to innovate in the dissemination of the history of art and cultural heritage with digital tools and mobile platforms.
7. To show sufficient reading comprehension in reading documents written in English, linked to the subject, such as notes, scientific articles, articles of popularization, web pages, etc.
8. How to cite documentary sources in the history of art.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Self study	90,0	60.00
Hours medium group	18,0	12.00
Hours large group	30,0	20.00
Guided activities	12,0	8.00

Total learning time: 150 h

CONTENTS

Block 1. History of Ancient Art to Modern Art

Description:
Introduction: Towards a definition of Art and artist.
1.1 Magic and fetish: primitive art
1.2. Culture and civilization: Egypt
1.3. Canon of beauty: Greece
1.4. Politics and Power: Rome
1.5. Religion: Middle Ages
1.6. Artist: Renaissance
1.7 Science and Rationalism: Baroque and Neoclassical

Related activities:
Exercises proposed in Exercise 1

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Full-or-part-time: 35h
Theory classes: 14h
Self study : 21h

Block 2. History of Modern Art to Contemporary Art

Description:
2.1 Nature: Realism, Romanticism and Symbolism
2.2 The Woman: ismeionism
2.3 Break With All: Avant-guards I
2.4 Boot With All: Avant-guards II

Related activities:
Exercises proposed in Exercise 1

Related competencies :
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Theory classes: 14h
Self study : 21h

UNIT 3. VISUAL CULTURE

Description:
3.1. What is visual culture: what do images tell us about the cultures in which they are produced?
3.2. The image in the age of its technical reproducibility. Social analysis of the image.
3.3. The symbolic forms of the image. Iconological analysis.
3.4. The image in the society of consumption, spectacle and simulation. Semiotic analysis of the image.
3.5. The colonial image. Discourse analysis of the image.

Specific objectives:
Gain skills for analysing the images and the cultural contexts in which they are produced, received and circulated from a critical perspective as well as using different methodological approaches.

Related activities:
- Compulsory practical exercises in class, not evaluable.
- Individual practice: critical analysis of an image (P04)

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Full-or-part-time: 0h 42m
Theory classes: 0h 22m
Self study : 0h 20m

UNIT 4. MUSEUMS, ARTS CENTERS AND SPACES FOR ART PRODUCTION AND RESEARCH

Description:
4.1. The museum as an act of interpretation. Mining the Museum by Fred Wilson (1991). Visit to the National Museum of Art of Catalonia (Barcelona).
4.2. Art centers and curatorial practice: visit to the Santa Mònica arts center (Barcelona).
4.3. Producing artistic and transdisciplinary research: visit to the art research and production center, Hangar (Barcelona).

Specific objectives:
To gain knowledge on the role of different institutions and professional agents involved in the production of art and contemporary culture.

Related activities:
- Group practice: critical analysis of an exhibition.
- Visits to a museum, an art center, and an art research and production space.

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Full-or-part-time: 0h 28m
Theory classes: 0h 06m
Self study : 0h 22m

ACTIVITIES

P01 Group practice critical and historiographic analysis of an author

Description:
The practice consists of a set of exercises done in class that are complemented to make a project that is based on the search of images and iconographic work, its documentation and its in-depth analysis based on the indications given by the teachers in class.

Specific objectives:
1. Searching about iconographic documentation
2. Description of the basic elements of the construction of an image
3. Critical analysis of the image
4. Analysis of the historical-aesthetic context of the work and of the artist
5. Historical analysis of an author
6. Description of the references consulted according to UPC regulations
7. Creation of an audiovisual work

Material:
Guide of practices P01 (available in the apartat Materiales de la asignatura in the CITM Campus)

Delivery:
Delivery through the Atenea virtual Campus

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Full-or-part-time: 37h 30m
Theory classes: 37h 30m

P03 Individual practice: critical analysis of an image.

Description:
Analysis of an image taking into account the different methodological perspectives studied in class.

Specific objectives:
- To consolidate the knowledge gained during the classes and expand it with independent research, analysis and reflection tasks.
- To gain skills to analyze the images and cultural contexts in which they are produced, received and circulated from a critical perspective and using different methodological approaches.

Material:
The guideline for conducting the exercice will be available in the Materials section of the course at the CITM Campus.

Delivery:
Delivery via the CITM Campus.

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Full-or-part-time: 17h 30m
Guided activities: 17h 30m

P04 Group practice: critical analysis of an exhibition.

Related competencies :
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06 URI. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES. Managing the acquisition, structure, analysis and display of information from the own field of specialization. Taking a critical stance with regard to the results obtained.
02 SCS. SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT. Being aware of and understanding the complexity of social and economic phenomena that characterize the welfare society. Having the ability to relate welfare to globalization and sustainability. Being able to make a balanced use of techniques, technology, the economy and sustainability.
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Full-or-part-time: 20h
Guided activities: 20h

GRADING SYSTEM

Any academic fraud, plagiarism or use or possession of unauthorised means in an assessment activity leads to a mark of zero (0) for the affected test or assignment. Furthermore, in accordance with the University's regulations, if disciplinary proceedings are initiated the subject is recorded as "Pending Assessment" until a decision is reached. These incidents are managed in accordance with the **Action Framework for Academic Integrity in Assessment at the UPC**.

ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND EXAMS UNITS 1 AND 2 (50%)
- Practices: 22%
Group practice: critical analysis of an author: 22%

- Exams: 23%
Partial exam: 11%
Final exam: 12%

- Non-assessable practices, participation and learning attitude: 5%

ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND EXAMS UNITS 3 and 4 (50%)

- Practices: 25%
Individual practice: critical analysis of an image: 14%
Group practice: critical analysis of an exhibition: 11%

- Exam: 20%
Critical review of two compulsory reading texts.

- Non-assessable practices, participation and learning attitude: 5%

EXAMINATION RULES.

The evaluation of the practices does not only involve the resolution of the proposed exercises and projects, but also the defense of the results when the student is required to do so at the beginning of classes.

Any incident that does not allow to solve the practices in the indicated period will be communicated to the corresponding teacher by the Campus Virtual. After this communication, the relevance or not of the causes that motivate the non-presentation of the exercise will be solved and the alternatives will be established to complete the evaluation if the causes are justified. The causes of non-presentation of exercises that are communicated to the teaching staff by the Head of Studies will also be considered justified.

Exams
The exams are done by electronic document that the student must complete.
The questions and problems proposed in the exams refer to both the theoretical content of the subject and the exercises solved in the different practices.

Reviews and / or claims regarding the exams will be done exclusively at the dates and times established in the Calendari Acadèmic.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:
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- Shiner, Larry. La invención del Arte: una historia cultural.. Madrid: Paidós Ibérica, 2014.
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- Rose, G.. Metodologías visuales. Una introducción a la investigación con materiales visuale. Murcia: Cendeac, 2019.
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- Nochlin, Linda. Situar en la Historia. Mujeres, Arte y sociedad. Madrid: Akal, 2020.
- Freeland, Cynthia. Pero ¿esto es arte?. Madrid: Cátedra, 2001.
- Stokstad, Marilyn; Cothren, Michael W.. Art History. New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2005.

RESOURCES

Other resources:
The British Museum online https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/collection-online/guide />Tate Gallery https://www.tate.org.uk/ />Museo Nacional de El Prado https://www.museodelprado.es/ />Washington National Gallery of Art https://www.nga.gov/ />Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio