

HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT MEETING

Monday, November 3rd, 2025 | 2:30 P.M. | Arts 333

Attendance: Jason Weems, Aleca Le Blanc, Susan Laxton, Johannes Endres, Jeanette Kohl, Kristoffer Neville, Yong Cho, Sonja Sekely-Rowland, John Medina, Breana Lepe

Chair's Announcements (Susan):

- Classroom IT upgrades
 - Estimate for 50,000\$ for full renovation, it's itemized for ARTS 335, waiting for word from Dean
 - Jose attached light to the podium
 - Possible portable light for watkins 1000
 - Dimmer in room has been assigned to technician, replaced with hallogens, dont dim
 - Cable equipment to be checked as it is often faulty
- Ninja 1 lockouts
 - 50% of faculty have complied to software installation
 - TrailX has agreement with federal government, monitors UCR devices
- CAP
 - Following annual meeting,
 - 40% research 40% teaching 20% service
- New courses?
 - Has to be approved by department first
- Chair in Rhetoric
 - 5 departments stepped forward, looking to support AHS Department in the Chairship

New Business (Johannes):

- New course cross-listed with Psychology
 - Introduction to Art and Psychology (F26), first approved by faculty and psychology
 - AHS 006, perhaps a systemwide class, introductory course
 - 1 TA from Psychology Department and 1 from us
- Department newsletter
 - We are doing this again, there should be a deadline for December 1st for faculty
 - Next year June call
 - Please if every graduate student can submit 5 to 8 sentences on what they are working on to Sonja as well as any photos related to their research/area of interest by November 17!

Graduate Studies Report (Jason):

- 1. Grad Recruiting: Iselda and I hosted an online Zoom chat for prospective students on October 14. We had thirteen attendees, though more signed up. That is a slightly higher number than past years. We may host another one in early December should interest warrant. In mid October We sent a general recruitment email about our program to the universities nationwide. I also encourage you to contact your personal network to promote our programs. I have not distributed a "form" letter for this, but can if you'd like.
- 2. Graduate recruitment targets: Susan, Iselda and I will meet with the Deans of CHASS and Grad Div later this month to establish our target number for PhD admissions. I am going to propose a top end of 4 students this year. This is due to a small class last year, and a couple other things. We are not required to hit our target number, but I would like

to have it as an option. Related to this, for some reason we only received 15 TAs this year rather than our usual 16. We will ask the Dean about that, and the response will be factored in to admission #s.

- 3. Graduate funding for conferences: I proposed to Susan that we set aside some department funds to provide grants to our graduate students who are selected to deliver papers in person at conferences. I would like to get your opinions on this in the meeting.
 - Conference paper travel grant proposal, amount of award could vary based on distance/region
 - Number of times PhD can apply, probably once
- 4. Please encourage your advanced students to apply for external predoc fellowships. These greatly help the students and the program, even if the award is only a semester or quarter.
- Finally and Fyi: the Graduate Review Committee for this year is Kris, Yong, and me (as grad advisor). Please congratulate K and Y on this high honor or, better yet, thank them for serving!
 - Lily Allen is the graduate student for Getty Symposium!

Undergraduate Report (Aleca):

Last month I indicated that I'd be cleaning up the course catalog & degree audit system. I'd be grateful if you could take 5 minutes to look over the list below & respond to any of my questions that apply to your classes. These are the final changes/updates that I need to make (and that I cannot answer myself), so I'm eager to get them moving through the machinery.

1. You may remember last year that we were required to clean up our Lower Div offerings by eliminating courses that were not regularly offered and making the titles shorter? Well, unfortunately, NONE of those changes are reflected in the 2025-26 catalog ...
2. Unless there is an objection, I think all of the upper-division courses we teach should be eligible to count toward Elective Credits for AHS majors. Currently, there are 16 courses that cannot be applied toward the 12 unit Elective requirement. I think this is a clerical error & would like to correct it, but please tell me if that's incorrect. The other 35 upper-division courses we teach can be taken for Elective credits.
3. If you teach one of these courses, please confirm which periods it covers?
 - AHS 007 - World Art
 - currently: it is not assigned a period
 - Proposed change: premodern, early modern & modern/contemporary
 - AHS 021 - Intro to architecture & urbanism
 - Currently: Modern/Contemporary
 - Proposed change: premodern, early modern & modern/contemporary
 - AHS 025 - Art of Mesoamerica
 - currently: premodern
 - proposed change: premodern & early modern
 - AHS 111 - Tenochtitlan/Mexico City
 - currently: nothing
 - Proposed change: premodern, early modern & modern/contemporary
 - AHS 140 - Silk Road
 - currently: nothing

- proposed change: premodern & early modern
- AHS 141 - Mongol Empire
 - currently: nothing
 - proposed change: early modern
- AHS 145 - Contemporary Asian Art
 - currently: nothing
 - Proposed Change: Modern/Contemp
- AHS 158 - Self-Portraits: Renaissance to Contemporary Art
 - currently: premodern, early modern & modern/contemporary
 - proposed change: early modern & modern/contemporary
- 4. AHS 027 - Art of Pre-Columbian America - is this still taught? or only Mesoamerica now?
- 5. These course numbers are still listed in the Degree Audit that the students consult, but are not listed in the course catalog. Before I have them removed from the system, please scan them over & confirm they are not courses that you teach.
- 102, 134, 148, 159, 164, 166
- Student Success Funds
 - In consultation with Susan and Ryan Lipinski, I decided to use the majority of our CHASS Student Success funds to send 4-6 AHS majors to CAA next February. I have launched a Call for Applications and will hold an Info Session tomorrow evening. Students who are interested will submit a short statement of interest, indicate 4 sessions and 1 museum they will visit, and include a list of the faculty members they've taken classes with. I'm not asking them to request Letters of Rec - b/c this is a pilot program and happening quickly - but depending on the level of interest, I may ask some of you for feedback about specific students. Should have the process wrapped up by the end of the quarter. Wish me luck!
- AHUA
 - We had our welcome back reception for the AHS majors, and even though sparsely attended, it was great and there was a lot of enthusiasm. Last week, the group hosted an evening conversation with everyone's favorite professor, Kris Neville.
- Trying to introduce a 25 person undergrad seminar in preparation for junior/senior seminar, introduce them to methodology and historiography

VRC Report (Sonja):

- (Please see the attached file in the email.)
- Reach out if you want Sonja to create course flyers

Graduate Student Report:

- Nomination Finalization
As you may remember from the last meeting, we were in the process of selecting our Art History Graduate Student Association Officers for this academic year. We are happy to finalize our nominations as listed below.
 - President: Becky Teague
 - Vice President: Rebecca Allen
 - Secretary: Lindsay Mero

- Treasurer: Emily Citino
- Online Content Liaison: Erica Castillo
- GSA Representative: Meagan Whalen
- Faculty Liaison: Breana Lepe
- Conference Coordinators: Rachel Shermock & Xinqian Zhang
- Printer and Computer
Questions about printer and computer in the graduate research center, several students have reported a printer that does not respond to the print command on the computer. We are looking to see if there is someone from IT or the department who can take a look at it at the earliest possible convenience.
- Social Media
What type of content would you suggest for the AHSGSA Instagram? We can make similar posts based on previous uploads but open to recommendations.
- AHS GSA Updates
There is not much to report other than union bargaining updates and ICE protocol, the next meeting will be this Wednesday.

UCR ARTS Report:

- Successful opening for Transresgoras, please go see!
 - Lots of ephemera, students loved it, Dean loved it (on third floor, how student success funds should be used)

Upcoming Events:

- None other than UCR ARTS listed in last section
- Susan Laxton will be giving a talk on November 13, at 12:30 P.M. at The Barn on *Surrealist photomontage and the structure of dissent*
 - <https://events.ucr.edu/event/EUTalks>