

HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT MEETING

Monday, December 1st, 2025 | 2:30 P.M. | Arts 333

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

Chair's Announcements (Susan):

- Move to add new categories to e-file
- PFP hiring incentive restored
- Addition to research/creative activities statements
 - Impact of federal action
 - Referred to american council of guidance
 - Department set own guidelines, test cases of inadequate acknowledgement of community service
 - Emphasis on research within the test cases
- Chancellor's approval needed for memberships
 - Individual faculty approval through chancellor on how research funds should be used
- Department newsletter reminder

New Business (Susan):

- Undergrad methods course (Aleca)
 - Can employ two of our grad students, extra employment opportunity, more desirable to teach to art history majors
 - Writing intensive
 - This would fulfill the writing requirement as a W course, more towards broader majors that need to fulfill this requirement
 - Faculty will continue to hash this out but they are in favor of a methods course and 191 repeat throughout the year
- Kris: Erlanger collaboration
 - If faculty are interested and in Europe then they will pay for expenses while there because they want to keep it going
 - Searching for modernist, condensed work in a seminar
- VRC/Grad lounge remodel
 - Turning 2 rooms into 3, the other room will be a classroom

Graduate Studies Report (Jason):

- UCR grad division reward PhD students Jan 16, we have to make nominations by Dec 19th (includes letters of recommendation)
- Lily was awarded 2 quarters for DCA, will not impact future applications
- CAA listings of completed and in progress dissertations, expects students to self report to faculty member or staff member (to have it listed on CAA and various places)
 - He took extra step to require them to consult with their advisor before submitting
- Annual meeting with Deans to accept PhD students, 4 possible admitted students
 - Daryl trotted out that PhD should complete in 5 years (department pushed back)

- 4+1 masters degree?
- Dec 15 priority deadline, Jan 5 general deadline

Undergraduate Report (Aleca):

- Catalog cleanup - Submitting the changes to the catalog that we discussed last month. Fingers crossed they make it in for next year's catalog
- Undergrad experience - we experimented with learning communities this Fall and I'm sending a survey later this week. We only offered this to Freshman this year, but would like to identify a course for Transfers next Fall. If all students can also be placed into the same section, this helps build community for newly arrived students.
- CHASS Success Funds - 8 applicants for the trip to CAA. Will contact the students who are selected today.
- Growing the major - continuing to look for new student groups/cohorts to contact about AHS major; undeclared, liberal studies, students transferring from a different college at UCR.

Future initiatives -

- Host a Zoom presentation about the major and department at UCR for students at junior colleges
- Work with Veronica to facilitate transfer credits from area junior colleges (RCC, Chaffey)
- Offer more concentrations in addition to Arts Administration & Religious Studies; Education and Digital Humanities

Curriculum changes-

- Based on recommendations that came out of our workshops last year we decided to add a
 1. incorporate more advising,
 2. writing requirement,
 3. and create 2 new required courses (Intro to History of Art AHS 001 and Proseminar in Art History AHS 99) - either or both could work as W courses

How these changes would impact the curriculum:

- Advising & contact with faculty
 - Each year, art history majors are assigned to faculty member - divided equally among faculty to provide 1-1 touchpoint at some point in the year. (approx. 10 students per faculty member)
 - can be added as a recommendation not requirement in the catalog
- Writing requirement - (new course description below) AHS 99W - Pro-seminar in Art History
 - prerequisite for ahs 192 - jr/sr seminar
 - make 192 repeatable up to 3 times, but required once
- 2 new required courses:
- one route -
 - these 2 courses could take the place of electives (moving from 3 electives to 1)
- another route - if we add 2 new required courses AND reduce the upper div requirements per era (from 2 to 1), these changes create space for 4 electives.
 - this would add flexibility in completing the major if they are interested in a particular field

- would also take the pressure off when creating the teaching schedule to always include enough classes from each era
 - Intro to History of Art AHS 001
 - soft landing for Freshman & provide learning community
 - ideally offered each fall
- Pro-seminar in Art History AHS 99
 - prerequisite for AHS 192 jr/sr seminar
 - geared toward Sophomores & Juniors
 - ideally offered each fall - like the other class
 - soft landing for transfers

** The main areas of debate that we need to address is where to add the writing requirement, if we should offer a W course, and enrollment for AHS 99

VRC Report (Sonja):

- (Please see the attached file in the email.)
- Changes to be instituted on website for title II from university
 - Accessibility rules (look at contrast, alt text, etc)

Graduate Student Report:

- Thank you to the graduate students who submitted their statements to Sonja for the department newsletter
- Mark and Susan stopped by to look at the printer and computer and mentioned that we would be put on a list for a new one, thank you to the Chair.
- As of now Xinquian and Rachel sent out the voting polls for topic ideas that we could use for our conference, 6 ideas below:
 - Sensorial aesthetics in visual culture
 - Materiality of objects
 - Movement and the body
 - Innocent eye
 - Mnemosyne
 - Interval
- Emily and Lindsay have some prospective artists in mind for our in conversation speaker series, we might be able to start this next quarter.

UCR ARTS Report:

- Junior/senior seminar in relation to UCR Arts
- Johanna Myers taking over realm, once she defends PhD she might be director
- Pick up collection on temporary loan, comes with curator, collection is extensive
 - Hiroshi Sutimoto in this
 - Edward Curtis images
 - Early stereographs
 - Mid-century objects
 - Street, avant garde, and abstract photography
 - Been in Nebraska for years

Upcoming Events:

- None mentioned