

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

BA Hons History of Art

Managed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

delivered by School of History, Philosophy and Culture

Date approved:	5/2/2018
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2018

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended	Nature of amendment	Reason for amendment
5/2/2018	Section 4: Addition of second Independent Study Module (U68069)	To enable students to take more than one Independent Study Module, in response to the growing interest in such modules, in particular those linked to work placements and internships.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Oxford
Language of study:	English
Final award:	BA Hons
Programme title:	History of Art (single and combined honours)
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	CertHE, DipHE, BA
Brookes course code:	HD (single honours), HA (combined honours)
UCAS code:	V350 for single honours; for combined honours codes see the UCAS website at: http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch/
JACS code:	V350
HECoS code:	100306
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	Normal expected duration of study, full-time: 3 years Normal expected duration of study, part-time: 6 years Maximum possible duration of study, full or part-time: 8 years.
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	History of Art, Architecture and Design (originally published 2002, revised 2008)
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	Not applicable
Apprenticeship Standard:	Not applicable
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

The study of art has been at the heart of the academic offering of Oxford Brookes and its forbears ever since the origins of the institution in the nineteenth century. Oxford remains an excellent location for the study of the histories of art and architecture, with outstanding local museums and galleries and a rich and distinctive architectural heritage. London with its wealth of museums is just a short journey away. The History of Art course at Brookes takes full advantage of this abundance of local resources. A particular stress is placed on the study of works of art and buildings at first-hand, with almost all modules including guided visits to sites in Oxford or London. Several modules have been designed wholly or partly around the study of works of art, institutions or architecture in the locality, including the unique Art in Oxford and Oxford Buildings modules. The importance placed on the first-hand study of works of art is epitomised by the long-established Field Work in Art History module, currently taught through an intensive series of guided visits to sites in Paris.

The Brookes History of Art course has been carefully designed to foster progression, with introductory modules at level four (suitable both for those who have and those who have not studied the subject formerly), modules at level five which offer a broad coverage of the periods and media covered by the course, and modules at level six which offer students the chance to carry out more specialised study with expert guidance. The course focuses mainly on western art between the Renaissance and the present day, with coverage of a wide range of media including painting, sculpture, architecture, prints, drawings and art theory. Teaching staff are active and successful researchers in their fields with good results in recent research assessment exercises. Staff research interests feature prominently in the course, especially in the level five Themes and level six Advanced Seminar modules. The level six Synoptic module offers final-year students an opportunity to pull together and gain a coherent overview of their art historical studies in a way not always possible in modular programmes. Throughout the course an interactive style of teaching is favoured, with a strong emphasis placed on discussion in the classroom and in the field and, increasingly at levels five and six, a sense of students and staff working together to tackle problems and issues in the study of art history.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 Academic literacy

1. Be able to demonstrate a broad and comparative knowledge and understanding of the art and architecture of the West between 1400 and the present day and also some understanding of non-western artistic traditions.
2. Be able to employ a visual literacy grounded in the rigorous historical analysis of works of art and architecture, both at first-hand and in reproduction, including an attention to the processes that underlie their construction.
3. Be able to analyse artefacts in relation to appropriate historical, intellectual, cultural or institutional contexts.
4. Be able to engage critically with the concepts, debates, approaches and intellectual tools that inform, and have informed, the discipline of the History of Art, and be aware of the limited and partial nature of all historical knowledge.

3.2 Research literacy

5. Be able to demonstrate a critical and evaluative understanding of some substantive areas of current research in the History of Art.
6. Be able to execute your own research tasks, including effective planning and organisation, critical and verifiable information retrieval, and the use of appropriate methods.

7. Be able to present your research in a way which shows an understanding of the professional standards expected in the field, including an awareness of the relationship of your own work to its sources and a responsible use of quotation, citation and bibliography.

3.3 Critical self-awareness and personal literacy

8. Be able to communicate ideas and arguments cogently and effectively in both written and spoken form, supporting them with appropriate evidence and making effective use of visual aids where necessary.
9. Be able to work independently, fulfilling briefs and deadlines, managing your time and tasks, and taking responsibility for your own work.
10. Be able to assess and reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of your work, and make use of feedback to improve your performance.
11. Be able to work with others constructively and supportively.

3.4 Digital and information literacy

12. Be able to deploy skills required for information retrieval and research, using both primary and secondary sources.
13. Be able to engage with, evaluate and employ digital resources relevant for the study of art and its history.
14. Be able to assess the usefulness and reliability of evidence from a range of primary and secondary sources, including digital resources, and interpret it in relation to relevant issues and enquiries.

3.5 Active citizenship

15. Be able to draw upon an awareness of cultural difference developed through the study of a range of periods and cultural areas, and consequently be able to select approaches appropriate to a variety of cultural contexts.
16. Be able to interrogate the role played by class and gender dynamics in the construction of cultural contexts.
17. Be able to apply knowledge and experience resourcefully in complex and unfamiliar contexts, and in the analysis of unfamiliar artefacts, issues and ideas, and be able to re-examine familiar artefacts, issues and ideas.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

*All modules are worth 15 credits other than those specified as 'double', which are worth 30 credits.
S1 = runs in semester one; S2 = runs in semester two*

History of Art Single Honours Requirements

Stage One

The following modules are compulsory:

- U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art, S1
- U68007 Art in Oxford, S1
- U68001 Museums and Society, S2
- U68003 Reading Art History, S2

The following modules are recommended:

- U68005 Making and Meaning in Western Architecture, S1

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U68006 Modern British Art, S2

Stage Two

The following modules are compulsory:

U68023 Field Work in Art History, S2

U68080 History of Art Synoptic (double), S1 and S2

U68099 History of Art Double Dissertation (double), S1 and S2

The following modules are alternative compulsory (at least 2 out of 3 must be taken):

U68020 Themes in European Art 1450-1700 (double), S1

U68021 Themes in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century European Art (double), S2

U68022 Themes in Modern Art (double), S1

The following modules are alternative compulsory (at least 1 out of 2 must be taken):

U68070 Advanced Seminar in History of Art 1 (double), S1

U68071 Advanced Seminar in History of Art 2 (double), S2

The following modules are acceptable:

U68026 Curatorial Practice (double), S1

U68027 Oxford Buildings, S2

U68068 Independent Study in History of Art 1, S1 or S2

U68069 Independent Study in History of Art 2, S1 or S2

U20122 Anthropology of Art, S1

U65526 Critical Perspectives in Contemporary Art, S1

The following modules are alternative acceptable (not more than two can be taken from this list):

U20123 Anthropology of Ritual, S2

U66027 Opera and Politics, S2

U67620 The Early Modern State, S1

U67621 Conflict and Belief in the Early Modern World, S2

U67720 Gender, Sexualities and the Body, S2

U67724 Politics, Society and Culture in Modern Britain, S2

U67820 The Crisis of the West, S2

U73630 The Philosophy of Religion, S1

U74124 Culture, Gender and Sexuality, S2

The following modules form the honours component for History of Art:

U68070 Advanced Seminar in History of Art, 1 (double), S1

U68071 Advanced Seminar in History of Art, 2 (double), S2

U68080 History of Art Synoptic (double), S1 and S2

U68099 History of Art Double Dissertation (double), S1 and S2

History of Art Combined Honours Requirements

Stage One

The following modules are compulsory:

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art, S1

U68001 Museums and Society, S2

The following modules are recommended:

U68007 Art in Oxford, S1

U68003 Reading Art History, S2

U68005 Making and Meaning in Western Architecture, S1

U68006 Modern British Art, S2

Stage Two

The following modules are alternative compulsory (at least 1 out of 3 must be taken):

U68020 Themes in European Art 1450-1700 (double), S1

U68021 Themes in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century European Art (double), S2

U68022 Themes in Modern Art (double), S1

The following modules are acceptable:

U68026 Curatorial Practice (double), S2

U68023 Field Work in Art History, S2

U68027 Oxford Buildings, S2

U68068 Independent Study in History of Art 1, S1 or S2

U68069 Independent Study in History of Art 2, S1 or S2

U20122 Anthropology of Art, S1

The following modules are acceptable and form the honours component for History of Art:

U68070 Advanced Seminar in History of Art 1 (double), S1
U68071 Advanced Seminar in History of Art, 2 (double), S2
U68080 History of Art Synoptic (double), S1 and S2
U68090 History of Art Interdisciplinary Dissertation (one credit for History of Art, one for your other subject), S1 and S2
U68099 History of Art Double Dissertation (double), S1 and S2

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

To progress to stage 2 on the single honours History of Art course (HD) students must pass at least two of the following modules:

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art, S1
U68007 Art in Oxford, S1
U68001 Museums and Society, S2
U68003 Reading Art History, S2

To progress to stage 2 on the combined honours History of Art course (HA) students must pass the following modules:

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art, S1
U68001 Museums and Society, S2

The following modules are compulsory for the single honours History of Art (HD) CertHE:

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art, S1
U68007 Art in Oxford, S1
U68001 Museums and Society, S2
U68003 Reading Art History, S2

The following modules are compulsory for the single honours History of Art (HD) DipHE and BA:

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art
U68007 Art in Oxford
U68001 Museums and Society
U68003 Reading Art History
U68023 Field Work in Art History
Two of the following three modules:
U68020 Themes in European Art 1450-1700
U68021 Themes in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century European Art
U68022 Themes in Modern Art

The following modules are compulsory for the single honours History of Art (HD) BA (hons):

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art
U68007 Art in Oxford
U68001 Museums and Society
U68003 Reading Art History
U68023 Field Work in Art History
U68080 History of Art Synoptic
U68099 History of Art Double Dissertation
Two of the following three modules:
U68020 Themes in European Art 1450-1700
U68021 Themes in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century European Art
U68022 Themes in Modern Art
One of the following two modules:
U68070 Advanced Seminar in History of Art, 1
U68071 Advanced Seminar in History of Art, 2

The following modules are compulsory for the combined honours History of Art (HA) CertHE:

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art
U68001 Museums and Society

The following modules are compulsory for the combined honours History of Art (HA) DipHE, BA and BA(Hons):

U68004 Making and Meaning in Western Art
U68001 Museums and Society
One of the following three modules:

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching and Learning

Teaching is conducted through a range of approaches: informal lectures featuring in-class discussions; seminars in various forms including those centred on student presentations; tutorials for groups or individuals; staff-led visits; and written feedback. Most of the modules are taught through several of these approaches, thus ensuring a varied learning environment.

Independent learning is fostered through specified readings and through self-guided visits which are often conducted with the guidance of staff-prepared hand-outs.

The principle of progression seen in the design of the programme is manifested in the delivery of the curriculum. At level four students can expect modules which introduce the subject through specific examples and case studies. While level four of the programme is designed to be accessible to complete newcomers to the History of Art, the examples and case studies examined are of a range sufficient to ensure that most should be new even to those students who have studied the subject before. At level five there is broad coverage of the art and architecture of the west between the Renaissance and the present day, again focusing on specific areas and periods. The level six honours modules intended to be taken towards the end of the course (U68070/1, U68080, U68090/9, the Advanced Seminars, Synoptic and Dissertation) offer a more in-depth coverage of more restricted fields which are close to staff research interests. In these modules a greater emphasis is placed on supported independent work. This development both fosters independent learning and reflects the developing capacity of the student to learn independently. At the same time, in some of these modules students will also encounter smaller class sizes (U68070/1) or one-to-one teaching (U68090/9), thus increasing the quality of staff-student contact. These teaching conditions are better suited to the more complex problem-solving and research-orientated tasks that students encounter in the latter stages of the course.

In single (15-credit) modules students can expect around 25 hours of contact time with teaching staff during the teaching semester, with the remaining 125 hours spent on independent study. In U68003 and U68023, in which teaching is principally carried out in smaller seminar or visit groups, there are around 17 hours of contact time and 133 hours of independent study.

In double (30-credit) modules students can expect around 40 hours of contact time with teaching staff during the teaching semester, with 260 hours of independent study. In U68080, taught through both semesters, students can expect 55 hours of contact time with 245 hours of independent study. The dissertation and independent study modules are taught through individual tutorials. Students experience up to 10 hours contact in the dissertation and up to 5 hours in the independent study modules (respectively 290 and 145 hours independent study).

Assessment

Assessment is conducted through a variety of methods: exams without a visual component; exams using a visual component; coursework essays and other exercises; dissertations; and assessed presentations (note that not all presentations are assessed; formative feedback are given on those which are not assessed).

Within most modules assessment is 50% exam (or class test), 50% coursework. The exceptions are:

U68006, U68007, U68026, U68023: 100% coursework.

U68070 and U68071: 25% exam, 75% coursework.

Dissertation and independent study modules: 100% dissertation or independent study project.

Adherence to the Brookes Assessment Compact is ensured through the following:

- The inclusion of the Compact in the Programme Handbook.
- The stress placed on in-class preparation for assessed tasks.
- The stress placed on feedback, both in the form of written feedback on returned work and in the form of taught sessions devoted to feedback.
- The production of schedules of assessment deadlines, published in the Programme Handbook, with the aim of avoiding deadline clashes other than those that are unavoidable at the end of the semester.
- The continuous review of assessment in consultation with both the External Examiner and student representatives and in light of student evaluations and other forms of student feedback.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum entry requirements are given here:

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/undergraduate-courses/>

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

Not applicable.

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Recent graduates have gone into careers in the art world, working in museums, commercial art galleries, auction houses, publishing, teaching (in both schools and museums), journalism and further study at MA and PhD level. History of Art can, however, also lead on to many non-art related careers. Like other humanities subjects it offers an excellent suite of core skills (research, analytical thinking, critical judgment, ability to communicate clearly) which are regarded as highly desirable by many employers and a good foundation for further training. School teaching has been an especially popular career choice among recent Brookes History of Art graduates. History of Art offers, in addition, the specific component of high levels of visual literacy and attentiveness which can fit graduates well for careers in areas like interpretation and advertising. The Curatorial Practice module provides training in specific skills for those interested in a career in a museum or gallery, whether commercial or publically funded. The Independent Study modules can be used to give academic credit for careers-related activities such as internships, work placements and assistance with exhibitions.