Curriculum Proposal
Re: Art Major

Art and Art History Department
Peter Freund, Chair

Introduction

In Spring 2009, the Art and Art History Department (Peter Freund, Chair) presented to the UEPC for feedback a proposal-in-progress for extensively revising and expanding the studio art major. The aim of the proposal was to update and reinvigorate the studio art curriculum relative to both current trends in the field and the full range of departmental faculty expertise (studio, digital media and other contemporary methodologies). The UEPC responded positively and encouraged the department to go forward with vetting the proposal with other programs within SOLA. Several such discussions took place. Since that time, the proposal has been re-envisioned in light of faculty and course allotment reductions and the conclusions of the department’s 2009-10 program review. Thus the present proposal reflects a somewhat scaled-back but nonetheless compelling plan for a revised studio art major.

General Rationale

The studio art segment of the Art & Art History Department currently contains twenty-two courses, primarily classes in traditional studio practices and a few classes of more contemporary topic or orientation. In recent years, some of these courses have not been offered, based on the department’s shifting priorities, facilities, support staff, and faculty expertise. The present proposal would not increase the overall number of courses either in the department or in the major but rather would consolidate certain areas and expand others. The overarching matriculation structure for the major and minor, including lower and upper division requirements, would be adjusted in order to improve the currency, coherence, breadth, and flexibility of course offerings, based on departmental learning outcomes, the College’s new core curriculum goal of “artistic understanding,” and trends in the field of art. The course numbering system will be revised to provide greater clarity regarding departmental foci.

PROPOSAL

Name of the Major

The Art & Art History Department proposes to change the name of the major from "studio art" to “art practice." The new name, which has currency in U.S. post-secondary institutions (e.g. UC Berkeley), would provide greater accuracy and clarity based on the proposed expanded focus of the department’s curriculum (including studio, digital media, and other practices).

Elements

The following pages elaborate the details of the curriculum proposal:

(1) "AT A GLANCE" juxtaposition of present and proposed courses
(2) List of requirements for the Art Practice Major
(3) List of requirements for the Art Practice Minor
(4) Course descriptions
### DEPARTMENT OF ART & ART HISTORY

**Art Practice Major AT A GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXISTING</th>
<th>PROPOSED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: “x” indicates items that will be revised or consolidated in the current proposal. “y” indicates courses that will remain the same as existing curriculum. “~” indicates courses that will be discontinued.</td>
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x Name of major: **“STUDIO ART”**  
New name of major: **“ART PRACTICE”**

#### LOWER DIVISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>LOWER DIVISION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x ART 10</td>
<td>Beginning Sculpture</td>
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<tr>
<td>x ART 12</td>
<td>Beginning Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x ART 20</td>
<td>Beginning Painting</td>
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<tr>
<td>x ART 30</td>
<td>Beginning Drawing</td>
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<td>- ART 40</td>
<td>Beginning Metal Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>x ART 50</td>
<td>Digital Media Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ART 60</td>
<td>Beginning Ceramic Sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ART 70</td>
<td>Beginning Printmaking</td>
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#### UPPER DIVISION

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<th>UPPER DIVISION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x ART 110</td>
<td>Advanced Sculpture: Material Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ART 112</td>
<td>Advanced Design: Collage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x ART 130</td>
<td>Advanced Drawing: Beyond Looking</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ART 140</td>
<td>Advanced Metal Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>x ART 150</td>
<td>Experiments in New Media Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ART 160</td>
<td>Advanced Ceramic Sculpture</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ART 170</td>
<td>Multiple Narratives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ART 180</td>
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<td>y ART 193</td>
<td>Special Study: Internship</td>
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<td>y ART 194</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ART 195</td>
<td>Departmental Seminar (AH)</td>
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<td>y ART 196</td>
<td>Senior Thesis Project</td>
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<td>Independent Study</td>
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<td>ART 198</td>
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<td>y ART 199</td>
<td>Special Study: Honors</td>
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<td>* Note: an equivalent capstone was approved in 2010 for Art History</td>
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</table>
2. ART PRACTICE: Major Requirements (14.5 courses)

**Lower Division (6 courses)**

ART 1 Studio Foundations 1: Drawing, Painting, Photography  
ART 3 Basic Design  
ART 55 Digital Foundations 1: Photo, Video, and Sound  
ART 80 Art Theory  
AH 1 Survey of World Art: Europe and the United States  
(or AH 2 Survey of World Art: Africa, Asia and the Americas)

- And a choice of one lower-division course:

  ART 2 Studio Foundations 2: Sculpture and Installation  
  ART 4 Basic Photography  
  ART 65 Digital Foundations 2: Web Design and Interactive Art

**Upper Division (8.5 courses)**

ART 195 Gallery Exhibitions (.25 CR)*  
ART 196 Senior Thesis Project*  
ART 198 Senior Portfolio in Art Practice (.25 CR)*  
* Note: Students entering Saint Mary’s College prior to academic year 2011/12 may substitute Art 199 Senior Special Study for Art 195, 196 and 198.

- And a choice of seven upper-division courses:

  ART 101 Advanced Drawing  
  ART 102 Advanced Painting  
  ART 103 Advanced Sculpture  
  ART 104 Advanced Photography  
  ART 155 Experimental Film/Video  
  ART 165 Experimental Interactive Media  
  ART 175 Interdisciplinary Arts (* not to be listed in catalog until it is offered initially as experimental course)  
  ART 180 Seminar in Art Theory & Practice  
  ART 194 Special Topics in Art  
  AH 117 Art Criticism, 1900 to the Present  
  AH 118 Art since 1930  
  AH 193 Museum Internship Project

3. ART PRACTICE: Minor Requirements (8.5 courses)

**Lower Division (3 courses)**

ART 1 Studio Foundations 1: Drawing, Painting, Photography  
ART 55 Digital Foundations 1: Photo, Video, and Sound

- And a choice of one lower-division course:

  ART 2 Studio Foundations 2: Sculpture and Installation  
  ART 3 Basic Design  
  ART 4 Basic Photography  
  ART 65 Digital Foundations 2: Web Design and Interactive Art
ART 80 Art Theory
AH 1 Survey of World Art: Europe and the United States
AH 2 Survey of World Art: Africa, Asia and the Americas

Art Practice Minor (cont’d)

Upper Division (5.5 courses)

ART 195 Gallery Exhibitions (.25 CR)*
ART 198 Senior Portfolio (.25 CR)*
* Note: Students entering Saint Mary’s College prior to academic year 2011/12 may substitute Art 199 Senior Special Study for Art 195, 196 and Art 198.

• And a choice of five upper-division courses

ART 101 Advanced Drawing
ART 102 Advanced Painting
ART 103 Advanced Sculpture
ART 104 Advanced Photography
ART 155 Experimental Film/Video
ART 165 Experimental Interactive Media
ART 175 Interdisciplinary Arts (* not to be listed in catalog until it is offered initially as experimental course)

ART 180 Seminar in Art Theory & Practice
ART 194 Special Topics in Art
AH 117 Art Criticism, 1900 to the Present
AH 193 Museum Internship Project
# 4. ART PRACTICE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## LOWER DIVISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ART</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 1</td>
<td><strong>Studio Foundations 1: Drawing, Painting, Photography</strong></td>
<td>This course introduces beginning students to basic two-dimensional art forms such as drawing, painting, collage, and digital photography. In order to explore essential characteristics of visual expression, the class examines basic two-dimensional (2d) design elements and techniques as well as the psychological implications of creative composition in relation to various media. The class functions as a laboratory for experimentation with multi-media work, collaboration, and documentation and includes drawing from live figures and local landscapes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART 2</td>
<td><strong>Studio Foundations 2: Sculpture, Installation, Performance</strong></td>
<td>This course is an introduction to three-dimensional art forms including sculpture, installation, and performance. Assignments include the use of classical materials such as clay and plaster, as well as found objects, public interventions, and 2d/4d methods. Presentations of various artists' work and assigned readings provide a springboard for discussion of theory, practical application, and critical thinking, in both historical and contemporary terms. Students are encouraged to apply this material to their own work, with a focus on process rather than results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART 3</td>
<td><strong>Basic Design</strong></td>
<td>This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of design underlying a wide variety of visual art forms. Topics will include composition, design principles, layout, color and light theory, and typography as applied to two-dimensional formats. Techniques will be contextualized by relevant discussions of psychology and politics, rooted in the study of representative examples and project work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART 4</td>
<td><strong>Basic Photography</strong></td>
<td>This course provides an introduction to the art of digital photography, production techniques and theory. Students will study the expressive power of light, composition, contrast, depth, angles, patterns, texture, and subject matter. Technical skills will include digital input from scanning (flatbed &amp; slide/negative), digital cameras, video and internet sources; and output to digital printing systems. Computer assisted manipulation of imagery will be explored for correction and abstraction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART 55</td>
<td><strong>Digital Foundations 1: Photo, Video, and Sound</strong></td>
<td>This introductory course investigates the digital editing tools, processes, and concepts through which digital technology extends traditional 2d and time-based art practices. Students will develop digital imaging, video, and sound projects using Adobe Photoshop and Apple Final Cut Suite. The course will combine extensive software demonstrations, hands-on exercises, theoretical and technical readings, discussion of a broad range of examples of media art, and group critiques.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART 65</td>
<td><strong>Digital Foundations 2: Web Design and Interactive Art</strong></td>
<td>This course introduces the digital editing tools, processes, and concepts of web design and interactive art. Students will study web layout and interface design principles, color theory, typography, information architecture, and other topics that will prepare them to produce compelling website design. The theory of interactive design and new media will help contextualize student work and broaden the creative possibilities for the use of interactive structures for the purposes of artistic expression. Students will develop projects using Adobe Creative Suite software.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART 80</td>
<td><strong>Art Theory</strong> (satisfies Area A)**</td>
<td>This course introduces students to the conceptual terrain of 20th &amp; 21st century critical theory and its relationship to artistic practice. The class will proceed via seminar format based on close readings of seminal texts and will traverse a broad...</td>
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array of interdisciplinary topics and critical approaches ranging from psychoanalysis and philosophy to anthropology and political economy. Assignments will include research and creative projects. Students majoring in art as well as other fields are equally encouraged to enroll.

**UPPER DIVISION**

**ART 101**  
Advanced Drawing  
Since the Renaissance, artists have looked for ways to depict the world around them in a more realistic way. In this century, some artists have sought another kind of artistic clarity, reaching into the subconscious to explore an uncharted, inner world. If drawing is visual thought, this course aims to expand thinking through the study and application of many graphic methods such as frottage, transfer, automatism, blind drawing, and collaboration and chance procedures.  
*Prereq: Art 1: Studio Foundations 1*

**ART 102**  
Advanced Painting  
Continuing study of painting methods in a variety of traditional and nontraditional materials and techniques. This course challenges students’ comfort with their craft and emphasizes the development of personal issues in their work. To gain a better understanding of the state of the contemporary art scene, students are encouraged to keep current through readings, attending art lectures and exhibitions. During class, there will be slide presentations, museum and gallery visits, and critiques as necessary.  
*Prereq: Art 1: Studio Foundations 1*

**ART 103**  
Advanced Sculpture  
Since the use of collage in paintings by Pablo Picasso, and the revelation of “readymade” art objects by Marcel Duchamp, artists have been free to select and use almost anything as an art material. This course is for advanced students who want to expand their knowledge and application of nontraditional materials toward more complex and poetic expression. We explore a variety of permanent and ephemeral materials and methods. The emphasis will be on determining the appropriate material needed to reinforce the concept of the work and on problem-solving the use of that material.  
*Prereq: Art 2: Studio Foundations 2*

**ART 104**  
Advanced Photography  
Continuing study of digital photography production and post-production. This course supports the advanced photography student in conceptualizing and developing their own artistic voice through series production and experimentation. Student will explore studio and field practices, digital printing, and exhibition formatting.  
*Prereq: Art 1: Studio Foundations 1 or Art 4: Basic Photography*

**ART 155**  
Experimental Film/Video  
This course investigates experimental film and video production using digital and traditional tools. Student projects will explore a variety of nonlinear modes of film/video production, such as oscillating, looping, recombinant, and remediated structures, as well as a variety of input and sourcing methods ranging from current and antiquated video camera technologies to internet archives and found footage resources. Students will use digital editing software to expressively assemble and manipulate their materials into finished results. Readings and representative examples from the rich history of experimental film and video will help students contextualize their own work.  
*Prereq: Art 55: Digital Foundations 1*

**ART 165**  
Experimental Interactive Media  
As traditional web design utilizes interactivity in its merely pragmatic navigational function, students in this course will design and produce experimental web-based interfaces and architectures in which the interactive components become the focus of artistic and poetic expression. Theories of new media and net art will provide critical context for project work. Students will work individually and
collaboratively while producing projects designed for internet as well as installation formats.

**Prereq:** Art 65: Digital Foundations 2

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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| ART 175     | **Interdisciplinary Arts** | This course enables students to explore interdisciplinary art production. Students will work on projects that combine visual art with other disciplines such as theater, music, literature, and dance. The course's interdisciplinary focus will vary from term to term; as such, the course may be repeated for credit as topics vary. **Prereq:** Art 1: Studio Foundations 1 or Art 2: Studio Foundations 2 or Art 3: Basic Design or Art 55: Digital Foundations 1 or Art 65: Digital Foundations 2

*Please Note: Art 175 will be a first time course and will not go into the SMC Catalog as a permanent course until it has been taught once and subsequently reviewed for effectiveness.* |
| ART 180     | **Seminar in Art Theory & Practice** (satisfies Area A) | Advanced study in critical theory and its relation to art practice. Variable topics may include psychoanalysis, semiotics, post-structuralism, cultural studies, Frankfurt School, to name a few. Assignments will integrate critical and creative process as a form of artistic "praxis." The course may be repeated for credit as topics vary. |
| ART 195     | **Gallery Exhibitions** (.25 CR) | This course provides direct experience in gallery curation and installation. Under faculty supervision, students in this course manage the exhibitions in the student art gallery, Gallery 160 and the online Liquid Gallery. |
| ART 196     | **Senior Thesis Project** | As a capstone to their studies, seniors in art practice are required to work independently with a departmental faculty member in order to complete a thesis project, typically an exhibition of a coherent body of original artwork. This course is limited to seniors in the major. Permission of the faculty member and department chair required. |
| ART 197     | **Independent Study** | An independent study for students whose needs are not met by the regular course offerings of the department. Permission of the faculty member and department chair required. |
| ART 198     | **Senior Portfolio** (.25 CR) | * See separate proposal below. Note that this proposal is parallel to the UEPC-approved AH 198 Senior Art History Portfolio course. |

**Title:**

**ART 198: Senior Art Practice Portfolio**

**Date Offered (1st Time):** Spring 2012

**Number and Type of Contact Hours per Week:** 1 hour per week

**Duration of the course in weeks:** 15 weeks

**Amount of Course Credit:** .25

**Brief Course Description:**

The Senior Art Practice Portfolio (SAPP) is a capstone assessment course that allows students to track the development of their major or minor. Art practice requires as part of this assessment measure that all majors and minors submit a portfolio of artwork and writings at the end of their SMC career. This portfolio includes a listing of their completed coursework in the discipline, representative samples of their artwork, assessment of field experiences (exhibits, internships, curations), an artist statement, samples of other relevant art-related writings and a self-evaluative essay.

**Tentative Syllabus:**

The course will guide students through the organization of their portfolios, which will include the following elements:

**Artist Statement** (1-2 pages):

Compose an artist statement, which articulates in an integrated fashion the overall conceptual frameworks, media, aims, and processes relevant to the work.
you select to include in your portfolio. The statement should be driven by your passion for the work you have done, in terms of your experience of creating art, your development as an artist, the materials and concepts you have explored, the learning and problem-solving processes you've undergone in creating artwork, and the relationship between your art and other areas of your studies and life.

**Self-Evaluative Essay (5-6 pages):**
Compose a self-evaluative essay with detailed information about your experience as a art practice major. Overall, your essay should address how well your coursework and field experiences as an art major or minor at Saint Mary’s College provided you with an intellectually and personally challenging education. More specifically, consider your answers to the following questions:

- As a art practice major or minor, did you explore a range of media, from traditional to digital, and learn to work effectively with the specific freedoms and constraints of these media?
- Did you develop essential skills of critical inquiry in developing your work individually and in a community of peers?
- Can you identify and understand the theoretical debates that frame contemporary practices of art?
- As a art practice major or minor, did you contribute to student exhibitions as an artist and/or as part of an exhibitions team? Describe your experience with the exhibitions. Have you participated in exhibitions, festivals, or conferences outside of SMC?
- What does your portfolio reveal to be your greatest strengths as an artist, both conceptually and technically?
- Did your coursework in Art History help round out your education in art practice?
- What cross-fertilizations were you able to make between your study of art and your broader liberal arts education at SMC?

**List of Art Courses at Saint Mary’s College**
Provide a list of all the art and art history classes you’ve taken at SMC. (If you are a transfer student or have taken English classes at other institutions, please create a separate category to list those courses.) For this list, provide the following information (arranged chronologically, from first year to senior-level courses): Course number and title, name of professor and a list of all completed writing assignments.

**Sample Artwork**
You will select two or three works of art from each of your art courses at SMC. (If you are a transfer student, you may include up to two art pieces made in art courses at other institutions, including study abroad courses.) The works you select should show both the strengths and range of your developing abilities as an artist. Each artwork should be accompanied by the following relevant information: a title, medium, size dimensions, and year of production, followed by the number/name of the course and the name of your professor.

All your work will need to be properly photographed or digitized and should then be organized chronologically in an interactive web portfolio, either through a WordPress blog or through an original website of your own design. Overall, your artwork may be organized by medium, chronologically, or by course name.

**Assessment of field experiences**
Create a detailed, chronological list of all field experiences that you have had, participating in student or professional exhibitions, festivals, or conferences on or off campus. Assess, in writing, the impact that these experiences have had on your disciplinary development.

Your portfolio should include photographs documenting your exhibitions as well as any publicity materials you designed for the exhibits.

**Organization and Format of the Art Portfolio**
Arrange your portfolio in the following order:
1. Self-evaluative essay
2. Chronological list of courses taken at the College  
3. Artist Statement  
4. Portfolio artwork (arranged chronologically)  
5. Assessment of field experiences (arranged chronologically)  

Reading List:  
None  
(Recommended readings on website development for those students creating their own sites.)  

Course Rationale:  
The senior portfolio is a tool that demonstrates the progress of a student toward individual and program goals. It provides a framework, through the use of an extensive portfolio, for the evaluation of the quality and improvement of a student's work over the course of the program. It contains examples of student accomplishments, papers, and self-evaluations. The portfolio contains a reflective summary on the learning that has occurred in selected areas of art production and field experiences.  

NOTE: The department hopes to institute a portfolio review process, in which each senior makes a 15-minute presentation of his or her portfolio and fields questions before a small panel of art faculty.  

Prerequisite:  
Senior standing, Major or Minor in Art Practice
Transition Rules: From Studio Art to Art Practice Major

Students who have previously declared the "Studio Art” major can satisfy their matriculation requirements according to the following pattern:

LOWER DIVISION CORE (5 COURSES)

Art 1: Studio Foundations 1  
*Requirement may be satisfied by having taken either:*  
ART 20 Beginning Painting  
ART 30 Beginning Drawing

Art 3: Basic Design  
*Requirement may be satisfied by having taken:*  
ART 12 Beginning Design: Visual Literacy

ART 55: Digital Foundations 1  
*Requirement may be satisfied by having taken:*  
ART 50 Digital Media Art

ART 80 Art Theory  
*No equivalent to this new core requirement; the requirement is waived for students who entered Saint Mary’s prior to the 2011-2012 academic year. Students electing to take the course will receive lower division elective credit.*

AH 001: Survey of World Art: Europe and the United States  
(or AH 002 Survey of World Art: Africa, Asia and the Americas)  
*Requirement may be satisfied by having taken two of these three elective courses:*  
AH 1 Survey of World Art, Ancient Near East to the Gothic Era  
AH 2 Survey of World Art, Renaissance to the 19th Century  
AH 25 Survey of Asian Art

LOWER DIVISION ELECTIVES (1 COURSE)

ART 2 Studio Foundations 2: Sculpture and Installation  
*Elective may be satisfied by having taken any of the following (without duplication from above):*  
ART 10 Beginning Sculpture: Form and Concept  
ART 40 Beginning Metalwork  
ART 60 Beginning Ceramic Sculpture

ART 4 Basic Photography  
*No equivalent to this elective.*

ART 65 Digital Foundations 2: Web Design and Interactive Art  
*Elective may be satisfied by having taken (without duplication from above):*  
ART 50 Digital Media Arts

UPPER DIVISION CORE (1.5 CREDITS)

ART 195 Gallery Exhibitions (.25 CR)  
ART 196 Senior Thesis Project  
ART 198 Senior Portfolio (.25 CR)  
*Students entering Saint Mary's College prior to academic year 2011/12 may substitute Art 199 Senior Special Study for Art 195, 196 and Art 198.*
UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES (8 COURSES)

ART 101 Advanced Drawing
Elective may be satisfied by having taken:
ART 130 Advanced Drawing: Beyond Looking

ART 102 Advanced Painting
Elective may be satisfied by having taken:
ART 120 Advanced Painting

ART 103 Advanced Sculpture
Elective may be satisfied by having taken:
ART 110 Advanced Sculpture: Material Culture

ART 104 Advanced Photography
No equivalent to this elective.

ART 155 Experimental Film/Video
Elective may be satisfied by having taken:
ART 150 Experiments in New Media Art

ART 165 Experimental Interactive Media
Electives may be satisfied by having taken (without duplication from above):
ART 150 Experiments in New Media Art

ART 175 Interdisciplinary Arts
No equivalent to this elective (*not to be listed in catalog until it is offered initially as experimental course)

ART 180 Seminar in Art Theory & Practice
No equivalent to this elective.

ART 194 Special Topics in Art
Same as previous curriculum.

AH 117 Art Criticism, 1900 to the Present
AH 118 Art since 1930
AH 193 Museum Internship Project
Same as previous curriculum.