BA Art History
2018/19

Course Handbook (Joint-honours degrees)
Welcome from the Head of School

Since its inception in 1961, the University of Sussex has consistently ranked among the best British universities for the study of arts and humanities.

In 2009 the University brought together four leading programmes - History, Art History, Philosophy and American Studies - into a new dedicated School of study. The subjects we teach focus on the ability to reason, to analyse, to take critical positions and to expound them. Your studies with us will be an intensive high-level training in how to think - whatever your area of study - fitting you with the skills for a wide range of careers.

The School of History, Art History and Philosophy (HAHP) combines high-quality teaching, cutting edge international research and a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Professor Liz James
Head of School of History, Art History and Philosophy
Welcome from the Head of Department of Art History

Welcome to the Art History BA degree! This is your course handbook. It contains important information about how your course is organised, which you will need to know as you progress through your degree here. Please read it carefully. We look forward to meeting you, and wish you an enjoyable and fruitful time here at Sussex.

Flora Dennis, Head of Art History Department
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Key Contacts in your Department and School

The Art History Department sits within the wider unit of the School of History, Art History and Philosophy (HAHP). Administration of your degree and modules is organised by the School. The School, and its component Departments including Art History, are all situated in Arts A on campus (for a campus map, please see https://www.sussex.ac.uk/about/documents/uos-campus-map.pdf)

HAHP School Office
Arts A7

Art History Departmental Co-ordinator (your first point of contact for any administrative issues or difficulties that arise, such as changing modules, change of contact details, etc.)
Arts A7, arthistory@sussex.ac.uk

Head of Art History
Flora Dennis, Arts A182, F.Dennis@sussex.ac.uk

Head of School
Liz James, Arts A130, E.James@sussex.ac.uk

School Director of Student Experience
Hester Barron, Arts A151, H.Barron@sussex.ac.uk

School Director of Teaching and Learning
Kathleen Stock, Arts A114, K.M.Stock@sussex.ac.uk

School Administrator
Deborah Jackson-Smith, Arts A115, D.K.Jackson-Smith@sussex.ac.uk

In addition, you can find out the contact details of your lecturers, seminar tutors, and academic advisers (see p.13), by checking Sussex Direct (see p.9).

How we contact you

We will use your university email address to contact you (not a private one). Therefore please check it regularly for important course and module information.
Careers and employability

It’s never too early to start thinking about your future career after you leave Sussex. The Careers and Employability Centre is based in the Library. See the Careers and Employability Centre’s website for more details of workshops, cv advice, internship opportunities, employer drop ins, job fairs, individual appointments, and lots more: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/services/students

BA Art History course aims

The aims of the Art History course are to:

- Develop your enthusiasm for and knowledge and understanding of visual cultures in different periods and places.
- Ensure your sensitivity to the diversity of approaches to the discipline.
- Provide access to high-level research-led specialist teaching at appropriate points in the curriculum.
- Enable you to reflect upon and develop their capacity to learn independently.
- Provide preparation for employment and/or further study.
- Encourage an interest in and a commitment to interdisciplinarity.
Course learning outcomes

The Art History course learning outcomes are as follows (‘course learning outcomes’ are the skills, abilities and characteristics we expect you to acquire over the length of your Art History degree course). We expect you to:

- Have a broad and comparative knowledge and understanding of art history in more than one geographic region and chronological period.
- Have a more concentrated and systematic knowledge of one or more of the above.
- Have skills of visual literacy and the ability to relate unfamiliar artefacts and contexts to those that are more familiar.
- Have an understanding of the material nature of artefacts.
- Be able to set artefacts within their social and historical context.
- Be able to engage critically with historiographic material relevant to the discipline and be aware of new developments in the discipline.
- Be aware of the institutional structures that have influenced and continue to influence production, consumption and display of artefacts.
- Be aware of the visual dimensions of cultural diversity.
- Have acquired a range of core and personal attributes, cognitive, research, practical, and transferable skills (HAHP Core Transferable Skills).

Joint Honours Degrees

Sussex has always promoted interdisciplinary study by encouraging students to combine different subjects and different approaches to learning. Joint-honours courses are an ideal option if you want to study more than one subject in depth. A key idea behind joint-honours is to experience the range of ways that different academic disciplines use to teach, learn and research. Those differences are stimulating and challenging, but they can also be confusing, so you will find some useful information below to help you get the most out of your course.

As a joint-honours student your point of contact in Art History is:

Anna McSweeney (Arts A131)
Email: a.mcsweeney@sussex.ac.uk
• To find information about the individual modules that make up your course, go to the school that teaches the module. Each module is assessed by the school that teaches it, so on their website you will find (under “student information”) information about the assessment criteria being used, the referencing style you need to use for your work, contact times for your tutors, information about the student reps scheme and lots of other useful information.

• To find general information about joint honours, use the Frequently Asked Questions list:

• For information about the rules and regulations that govern all Sussex students, start with the general student handbook

• For help in improving your study skills, using the library and with careers, try the Skills Hub.

If you have any other questions, contact the convenors for your course; they are here to help you.

Useful links for joint honours students:

• Frequently asked questions

• General student handbook

• Skills Hub

Structure of Joint Honours with Art History

All undergraduate students are required to secure the same number of credits overall to achieve their degree. In the case of joint honours students these credits are split equally between the two subjects being studied rather than the focus being on a single subject. For more details on the structure of your particular degree, contact your school administrator or see the information on this page (http://www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment/jointhons)

All undergraduate degree students must complete 120 credits each year (60 credits per term). These credits are achieved by studying modules which are blocks of 15 or 30 credits. A module of 30 credits is double the workload of a 15 credit module. As a joint honours student, you will have a comparable number of teaching sessions to single honours students studying the subjects which make up your degree. As a general rule, a single credit amounts to 10 hours of learning effort so in a 30 credit module you would be expected to undertake 300 hours of learning in total over the term. Over a 12 week term this amounts to an average of 25 hours per week and would include time spent attending lectures and seminars as well as independent study.
**Reading weeks**

In most modules you will have one week designated as a ‘reading week’. This is NOT a holiday and is to be used to catch up on reading for your module or to prepare for assessment. Normally you should not go home. Since reading weeks differ from Department to Department, and HAHP and English do not always have the same reading weeks, you should continue to attend classes in your other modules, if they are held.

**Choosing your options**

You will choose your options for the next academic year around the middle of the second term of the previous academic year. You will be sent an email by your departmental co-ordinator at the relevant time. In addition, your Head of Department or their nominee will hold an ‘Options Fair’ around that time: a publicised general meeting for your year group, to discuss the various modules available to you, and to help you make an informed choice. If you want further information, please drop in to see the tutor of the module you are interested in during their office hours (see below) or consult your academic adviser (see below).

**Student feedback and drop-in hours**

Every member of teaching faculty holds “student feedback and drop-in hours” (sometimes also known as “office hours”) each week during term time, which will be advertised on their office doors and on Sussex Direct. These hours are for, among other things: following up material discussed in lectures or seminars; raising questions you still have; trying out new ideas; discussing any feedback you have received on written work or presentations; visiting your academic adviser. They are a form of contact hours available to you throughout your degree, should you wish to make use of them. You are strongly encouraged to ‘drop-in’ during these hours or else make an appointment via email. (If a tutor is away without notice during a published office hour, please let the Art History Co-ordinator know- see p.5).

**Teaching and learning on the Art History Degree**

Modules on the Art History Degree are typically taught as follows:

Year 1: lectures (1 hour long) and/or smaller group seminars (2 hours long).

Year 2: seminars (2 hours long); Art and the City is taught through a combination of 1-hour lectures and a 1-week study trip to Rome in the Spring term.

Year 3: seminars (2 hours long) and workshop (1 hour); dissertations for the Spring term modules are supervised within the contact hours for the module, as one-to-one tutorials.
You will also be expected to give at least one individual or group presentation to the seminar group for each module.

In addition to attending lectures and seminars, you are expected to do independent reading and note-taking and any other tasks the lecturer has set you for the week. You are also encouraged to use your own time to go to galleries, exhibitions and other sites to view works of art first-hand wherever possible.

Much of your course material is found on Canvas (https://canvas.sussex.ac.uk), the University’s online learning platform, which you will need to check every week. You should be automatically subscribed to the Canvas sites for your modules but if not, please contact the Art History Co-ordinator in the School Office (see p.5).

Any additional reading material not on Canvas can be found via the University Library http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/ In addition to their physical copies of books, they have an extensive electronic library which is accessible remotely. Please contact your tutor if some recommended book or other reading is not there so they can order it for you.

All of your class times and locations, and the contact details of your tutors, are to be found in your timetable on Sussex Direct https://direct.sussex.ac.uk/login.php. Sussex Direct is the University’s online tool for administrating your degree. Please contact the Art History Co-ordinator in the School Office (see p.5) if anything is missing or in error.

Helpful learning resources for your Art History degree

Art History Department Referencing Guide

Library Subject Area - Art History

ARTstor digital image library

The Art History Image Lab, or Slide Library, is located in Arts A183 and is open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. It contains PCs, scanners and printers for you to use when preparing assignments and presentations. It also has a selection of reference books and exhibition catalogues for you to consult. Simon Lane, the Image Lab Librarian, is on hand to provide informal help with image use in your assignments and presentations. Please contact Simon (S.Lane@sussex.ac.uk) for further details.

Student mentors

Mentors are HAHP PhD students who are available to help you with a range of study skills, such as time management and effective planning, help with presentations, planning and structuring written assessments, revision skills and exam preparation, contributing effectively to seminars, and making the best use of feedback. Mentors run lunchtime drop-in sessions every day of the week; see posters around the school for details.
Brushing up your general academic skills

The Careers and Employability Centre runs a range of workshops on specific skills such as: academic writing, planning and structuring essays; referencing; managing stress; revision; and more. See here for a range of online and in-person resources: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/studyskills](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/studyskills)

English Language skills

The Sussex Centre for Language Studies offers resources designed to help students improve their academic English and their understanding of British academic culture.

They offer free workshops, ‘time to write’ sessions and one-to-one tutorials throughout the academic year for students for whom English is not their first language. These are available to international/overseas students studying for a degree at the University of Sussex.

Contact the team on [elas@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:elas@sussex.ac.uk) or see here for more details [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/elas](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/elas)

Assessment

Whilst at Sussex you will sit a range of mid-term and end-of-term assessments, and get marks for them. In First Year, these marks will contribute to an overall mark which determines whether you can progress to Second Year. In Second and Final Year, your marks will be combined to compose your eventual degree classification. Degree classifications are as follows: First (70-100), 2.1 or ‘Upper Second’ (60-69), 2.2 or ‘Lower Second’ (50-59), Third (40-49), Fail (39 or below). Your Second Year marks will be weighted at 40%, and your Final Year marks will be weighted at 60% of your overall degree mark.

Students in art history (single and joint honours) are required to do a dissertation or research project in the final stage. Students on both single and joint honours degrees may do two dissertations either as a core requirement of the course or through selecting option modules which are assessed by submission of a dissertation.

All students, whether joint honours or single hours will be assessed using a variety of different methods appropriate to the subject. Examples include essays, exams, presentations, take away papers (TAP) or in-class tests. It is important to offer a range of assessment methods to enable students to practise and demonstrate a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills. Your tutors will provide you with subject specific advice and guidance on assessment and you can also visit the Study Success at Sussex (S3) website which has some guidance about some of the most common types of assessments.

The Examination and Assessment Regulations govern the way in which all taught students – undergraduate and postgraduate – are examined and assessed at the University of Sussex. Follow this link to the full examination and assessment handbook. Alternatively see this link for FAQs [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment)
‘Assessment criteria’ broadly describe the characteristics typically associated with various marks and classifications. For Art History Assessment Criteria including for essays, workbooks and presentations (1) and examinations (2) please follow the links below:

1. Art History Assessment Criteria [PDF 255.58KB]
2. Art History Assessment Criteria UEX [PDF 75.22KB]

**Progression and Degree**

At the end of the academic year the Progression and Award Board (PAB) will confirm your marks for the year. The PAB also confirms your eligibility to progress to the next stage of your degree, or if you are at the final stage, whether you have met the requirements for an award and the classification of this.

Following the meeting of the PAB you will receive an individual mark for each of the modules you have completed and a single overall mark for the year known as the ‘stage mean’. Please see Examination and Assessment Regulations Handbook for more details.

**Feedback on your work**

Written feedback will normally be provided to all students on all assessments within three weeks of the assessment deadline. If it is necessary to return comments after this time, every effort will be made to notify students in advance, but please remember that sometimes there are unexpected delays for reasons beyond our control (e.g. staff illnesses).

We aim to make our feedback *clear* and *helpful*, giving you constructive information about how to improve which you can take *forward* to other assessments in the rest or your degree. If anything is unclear about a piece of feedback, or you don’t feel it has been as helpful as it might be, we strongly encourage you to discuss it further with your tutor or academic adviser during an office hour (see p.8). If you have a complaint about a piece of feedback, please contact the School Director of Teaching and Learning (see p.5), about it and they will try to resolve the matter.

In addition to written feedback, you will get informal feedback during seminars, as you discuss, explore and clarify new ideas with your tutor and fellow students.

**Electronic submission**

Students taking first and second year modules will usually be asked to submit assessments electronically where assessments are text-based, for example, an essay. Your Sussex Direct webpages and module handbook will give all assessment details, including whether the assessment is to be submitted via e-submission through Sussex Direct or in hard copy via the School Office. Feedback for all e-submission assessments will also be provided electronically.
Please refer to the frequently asked questions available on the following webpage for further information:

www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment/esubmission

**Turnitin**

You are encouraged to use the internet-based text-matching service, Turnitin, prior to submitting your assessments. This may help you identify problems with your referencing.

Turnitin is also used during the marking process as a means of checking the originality of submitted work. All assessments submitted electronically via e-submission will be uploaded to the Turnitin database and an Originality Report will be made available to the marker. Please refer to the frequently asked questions available on the following webpage for further information:

www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment/esubmission

**Late Submission**

Should you miss an assessment submission deadline (for whatever reason) you may still submit the assessment after the published deadline. However, this will incur a penalty, as follows:

- Work submitted up to 24 hours late shall incur a penalty deduction of 5 percentage points (not 5% of the actual mark)
- Work submitted after 24 hours and up to 7 days late shall incur a penalty deduction of 10 percentage points (not 10% of the actual mark)
- No work shall be accepted after the 7 day penalty period has elapsed

**Exceptional Circumstances - please see the Student Life website**

**The Student Life Centre**

The Student Life Centre offers information and advice to all Sussex Students. Our aim is to help you to gain the best university experience you can, whatever your circumstances, by ensuring if you run into problems you get appropriate guidance and support.

The Student Life Centre is based in the heart of the campus: on the ground floor at the side of Bramber House. There are lots of ways to access our service. We are open from 9.00 am – 5.00 pm every week day, you can drop in to see us, call 01273 876767, email studentlifecentre@sussex.ac.uk or make an appointment – just go onto your Sussex Direct site, click on your ‘Study’ tab and then on Student Life Centre. You can select the adviser you wish to see at a time that suits you.
Amongst the many issues we can help you with are:

- Personal concerns affecting study progress or well-being.
- Funding and finance including scholarships, bursaries and hardship funds.
- Sources of help to improve academic performance – identifying obstacles to learning.
- Understanding university systems and regulations in relation to assessment, services, complaints, conduct, and discipline.
- Progression, intermission and withdrawal processes - discussion and support.
- Referrals to other professional services on campus.
- Exceptional circumstances claims help.
- If you don’t know who to talk to or who to ask – start at the Student Life Centre.

Because we are also a proactive service you may be contacted directly by the SLC while you are a student here as we may wish to offer you particular support. This may be, for example, in response to concern from your School about your attendance, participation or engagement with your course.

**Good academic practice**

The University takes academic misconduct very seriously, as does the Art History Department. Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, collusion, and personation (getting someone else to write work for you). It is your responsibility to find out what constitutes plagiarism, collusion, and personation, and to avoid them. If in doubt, please ask your tutors. Here are some useful links:

- [Sussex Student Union information on academic misconduct](#)
- [Sussex Skills Hub material on Plagiarism](#)
- [Sussex Skills Hub Referencing and Plagiarism quiz](#)
- [Art History Department Referencing Guide](#)
- [University regulations on Academic Misconduct](#)
- [English language resources and support](#)

**Your feedback to us**

We like to hear from you how we are doing and how we might improve things. There are several ways you can get in touch:
• Informal feedback half way through the module, normally taken in class by your module tutor (if this doesn’t happen, please ask your tutor, or failing that, alert the Director of Teaching and Learning – see p.5).

• Electronic course evaluation questionnaires after the module is over (you will be sent an email with a link).

• A chat with your tutor, or your academic adviser, passing on any concerns you have.

• A chat with your Student Rep. For information about the Student Rep system, and to find your Rep, please see here https://www.sussexstudent.com/student-reps/for-students/

• If you have a major concern that you can’t resolve with your tutor, please contact either the Director of Student Experience or the Director of Teaching and Learning (see p.5).

What do to if you decide to change course

We recognise that sometimes students can feel after some reflection that a course is not for them, and wish to change to some other more suitable course. If this describes your situation, please see the Curriculum and Assessment Officer Molly Butterworth (Arts A7, M.P.J.Butterworth@sussex.ac.uk) who will guide you through the process of applying to make a change. If you want advice on changing course, please see the Director of Student Experience, Hester Barron (Arts A151, H.Barron@sussex.ac.uk).

Placements and Study Abroad

For opportunities to do an optional professional placement in your third year, please see http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/careers/placement-internships for details.

For information about Study Abroad opportunities whilst at Sussex, please see http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/study-abroad/destinations

The University Student Handbook

For other more general material, please also see the University student handbook http://www.sussex.ac.uk/students/essentials/studenthandbook/