

## Visual Studies

### Department of Visual Studies

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### Overview

The Department of Visual Studies unites several major aspects of art and visual culture: studio art, the history of art, and the theory of visual images.

Visual Studies offers degree programs in art (ART), art history (AHI) as well as courses in visual studies (VS).

### Acceptance Information

See [Art](#) and [Art History](#) Listings for specific acceptance information.

### Degree Options

The Department of Visual Studies offers two types of bachelor's degree programs in art: a focused studio program, granting the BFA; and liberal arts based program, granting the BA. The BFA degree focuses on intensive work in the studio art supported by a program of general studies. The BA degree focuses on art and design in a broader context of general studies to allow the student to pursue a minor or double major in another program.

Four-year BA and BFA degrees in studio art (of 120 credits) are offered with undergraduate concentrations in communication design, emerging practices, painting, photography, sculpture, print media, and general studio.

The department of Visual Studies also offers a four year BA in Art History, which has a global emphasis. Art history provides a student with a broad overview of world art history and draws upon history, art, archeology, anthropology, psychology, and other disciplines. It emphasizes visual skills and verbalization of the visual, both of which are increasingly important in an image-saturated world.

#### **VS 150: Visual Theory, Aesthetics, and Criticism**

**Credits:** 3  
**Semester(s):** Fall  
**Type:** LEC

Introduces and explores visual, aesthetic, and critical theory, and the social and cultural dynamics that inform and influence contemporary art making. Required for first-year B.F.A. and B.A. Art Program majors. Lab fee. LEC/REC

#### **VS 152: Introduction to Visual Studies**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introduces a critical knowledge and understanding of images and image systems, their history, and their intersection with the culture as a whole.

#### **VS 200: Visual Studies Speakers Series**

**Credits:** 1  
**Type:** LEC

A visiting lecture series of visual arts professionals practicing in the fields of visual art, design, multi-media, cultural theory, and criticism. Exposes students to a wide range of viewpoints, art practice, and contemporary theory. Speakers change each semester. Lab fee.

#### **VS 220: Topics in Visual Studies**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

A course that explores different aspects of visual culture, which

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focuses on a different subject each semester that it is offered. Explores both the visual qualities and the critical analysis of a particular aspect of current and historical visual study.

### VS 260: Visual Theory, Aesthetics and Criticism 2

**Credits:** 3  
**Semester(s):** Spring  
**Type:** LEC

Examines visual theory, aesthetic philosophy, and critical theory and their application to and effects on visual art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Provides a broad grounding in both Modern and Postmodern thought based upon a carefully considered exposure to a set of representative primary texts. Lab fee.

### VS 300: Topics in Visual Studies

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

A course that explores different aspects of visual culture, which focuses on a different subject each semester that it is offered. Explores both the visual qualities and the critical analysis of a particular aspect of current and historical visual study.

### VS 375: Science, Culture, and Emerging Media

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introduces critical issues in science, culture, and emerging media-especially as they pertain to contemporary artistic practice. Topics are addressed through artists' works; selected readings include historical trends, biotechnology, virtuality, net theory, and cultural resistance. Lab fee.

### VS 400: Topics in Visual Studies

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

A course that explores different aspects of visual culture, which focuses on a different subject each semester that it is offered. Explores both the visual qualities and the critical analysis of a particular aspect of current and historical visual study.

### VS 415: Special Topics

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LAB

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

Topics vary by semester.

### VS 425: Designed Play

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LAB

*Lab Fee.*

Focuses on the changing role of "play" and its impact on contemporary cultural production. Investigates the following topics: how we currently define play - is it aimless, productive, meaningful; production of "play" and use of game-based models in consumer, educational and corporate culture; shifting boundaries between work and leisure. Integrates studio assignments with theoretical research and analysis from a broad range of platforms including: digital and non-digital gaming, virtual worlds, public space and situated technologies, interactive and environmental design.

### VS 449: Topics in Contemporary Photography

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Combines lecture, readings, and class discussion in examining major issues in contemporary photography. Theoretical, critical, and historical topics vary each semester. Lab fee.

### VS 479: The Revolutionary Sublime

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

An advanced undergraduate seminar. Investigates the visual art that arose from revolutionary tensions between theory and everyday life in key European and American political upheavals.

### VS 480: Visual Culture Seminar: Discourse and Deconstruction

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Provides the student with a critical examination of how the medium of photography has been philosophically problematized by poststructuralist theory, focusing upon visual culture and visual art. Lectures and directed reading provide the basis for discussion.

### VS 487: Visual Culture Seminar: Vision, Space, and Power

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Students consider the issues surrounding how we visually conceptualize both space and gender and how they are interrelated, focusing upon visual culture and visual art. Lectures and directed reading provide the basis for discussion.