Programme Rationale and Aims

Rationale:

- To provide a flexible entry level programme in History of Art that would attract significant student numbers and feed into both the BA and MA History of Art offered by the College.
- To deliver a programme in line with Birkbeck’s mission to provide flexible, part-time programmes.
- To deliver a programme in line with the Common Awards Scheme.

Aims:

The aims of the Cert HE History of Art are to:

- Develop students’ knowledge and understanding of the history of art
- Provide students with first-hand experience of art objects and images
- Develop students’ critical analysis and judgement in relation to the subject
- Provide students with experience of close textual analysis of different kinds of art historical writing
- Demonstrate the importance of context and the relationship of art history to other disciplines such as literature, social history, film and visual media and the history of ideas
- Develop academic study and writing skills.

Distinctive Features:

- Provides an open access, entry level introduction to the history of art, requiring no previous knowledge
- Provides students with firsthand experience of visual art and related media
### Year of entry: 2020/21

- Introduces students to objects, images and concepts taken from a range of periods of Western art, from ancient to contemporary
- Offers a varied and flexible programme that gives students the opportunity to specialise in particular periods in art history
- Provides academic background for those who have a professional interest in the art world.

### Entry Criteria

Entry is open to all who apply and who feel they may benefit.

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the Cert HE History of Art, students will be expected to be able to:

**Subject Specific:**
- Begin to engage with the concepts, values and debates that inform the study and practice of the history of art, including awareness of the limitations and partiality of all historical knowledge
- Analyse, describe and interpret objects, images and artefacts closely and systematically
- Show understanding of the objects, contexts and issues relevant to two or more specific areas of the history of art
- Select relevant material from the wide range of possible types of evidence used in the history of art and apply it to the examination of art historical issues and problems.

**Intellectual:**
- Critically analyse images, objects and texts
- Marshal and begin critically to appraise other people's arguments
- Produce logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant evidence.

**Practical:**
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical and effective information retrieval and organisation, including via the use of electronic resources.

**Personal and Social:**
- Appreciate and evaluate divergent points of view
- Express arguments clearly in writing and/or in oral presentations, using a combination of written and visual material
- Participate effectively in group discussion and structured group work
- Reflect on his/her own learning and respond constructively to feedback.
Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

Teaching and Learning

Teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, guided visits, groupwork and presentations given in class by students either individually or in groups.

Most modules are taught once per week for either 11 weeks or 22 weeks, from September/October to July each year, with each class lasting two hours. Some modules are delivered in longer meetings on Saturdays, or in intensive week-long sessions. Each module includes at least one visit to a gallery or museum.

Assessment

Assessment is 100% coursework. This will normally amount to:

2,500 words per 15 credit (one-term) module

- Presentation/analysis/review/essay - 1,000 words (40%)
- Essay - 1,500 words (60%)

or

- Essay - 2,500 words (100%)

5,000 words per 30 credit (two-term) module

- Presentation/analysis/review – 1,000 words (20%)
- Presentation/analysis/review/essay – 1,500 words (30%)
- Essay – 2,500 words (50%)

or

- Presentation/analysis/review/essay – 2,500 words or equivalent (50%)
- Essay - 2,500 words (50%)

Programme Description

To gain the Cert HE History of Art, students must successfully complete modules worth 120 credits in total.

Students first take the core module, Art History: An Introduction (worth 30 credits). Then they take option modules worth a further 90 credits. Option modules may include 30 credit modules, or 15 credit modules, or a combination of the two.

Core Module

- Art History: An Introduction

Indicative Option Modules

- ARVC205S4 - Art History: A Survey
- ARVC028S4 - Art and Architecture in Sixteenth-Century Rome and Venice
- ARVC195H4 - Art and Society in Eighteenth-Century Britain
- ARVC082H4 - Art and Society in Nineteenth-Century Britain
- ARVC274NO - Art at the Court of Madrid 1500-1700
- ARVC209H4 - Art of Imperial Russia
- ARVC218S4 - Bosch to Bruegel: New Insights in Northern European Art 1470-1570
Students may also include modules worth up to 30 credits (excluding core modules) from the Certificate of Higher Education programmes outside the department.

If students wish to progress to the **BA History of Art** it is recommended that they take one or more of the following options, which are shared with the BA first year: **Art History: A Survey (ARVC205S4)**, **Material and Process in Art (ARVC207S4)** and/or **Debates in Art History (AHVM091S4)** (each worth 30 credits).

If students wish to progress to the **BA Liberal Arts** they must take the module **Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon (AREN257S4)** (worth 30 credits).

Further study opportunities: Students who are awarded the Certificate of Higher Education and are admitted to Birkbeck's **BA History of Art** will be offered exemption from the first year.

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### Programme Structure

#### Year 1

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<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
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<td>Art History: An Introduction</td>
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<td>Core</td>
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<td>Each 15, or 30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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#### Year 2/Subsequent Years

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<td>4</td>
<td>Selection of 15 or 30 credit modules</td>
<td>Each 15, or 30</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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### Regulations

**Admissions**
This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf)

**Department Admissions Statement**
Entry is open to all who apply and who feel that they may benefit.

**Credit Transfer**
Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf)

**Programme Regulations**
This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

**Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A

### Student Attendance Framework – in brief


**Principle**
Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

**Attendance expectation**
Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

**E-Registers**
All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

### Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities)

### Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiners’ reports, student feedback, and
student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through an internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality)

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