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Area, Department: Art History, Art Department

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Previous Sabbaticals: 0

Instructor's Sabbatical Leave Status:

Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal, Fall 2023-Spring 2024: Art and Art History Course and Program Revision and Creation

Sabbatical Project Background

The Shared ART Prefix and Associated Problems

The Art Department at Ventura College houses programs in Art History—focused on the study and analysis of global artistic traditions—as well as Studio/Fine Art, Photography, and Ceramics—all characterized by a focus on Studio practice. Art History in particular is a distinct discipline, with different methodological approaches from those that characterize Studio classes. The Art History courses, by themselves, serve approximately 1900-2000 students on average each year. Despite the core difference in concept and approach between Art History and the Studio courses, at Ventura College both types of class currently receive the same prefix—ART.

The use of ART to designate both Studio and Art History courses is not the standard within the field. More commonly, Art History classes are distinguished from those in Studio by the prefix ARTH (or, less commonly, ARH). The [Course-Identification Numbering System](#) (C-ID) uses ARTH, for instance (it is especially important that we use C-ID prefixes, see below regarding AB 1111, Common Course Numbering). Within the VCCC District, the approach to Art History prefixing is split, with Moorpark College adopting the ARTH prefix, while Oxnard and Ventura Colleges rely on the ART designation.

Because our district employs both approaches, this can encourage confusion. Students with Studio majors are likely to be little impacted by the use of the same prefix—when they search for their Studio classes, they will first have to scan through Art History classes (the Art History classes take up numbers V01-V09B in the course sequencing). All Art History classes also fulfill local, CSU, and UC General Education patterns, however, so it is also likely for non-Studio majors to search for them separate from Studio courses. If non-Studio majors search for Art History classes, they might logically choose to use the quick search field labeled Art History in our Course Schedule. The results for the Art History designation in the Course Schedule pull only classes with ARTH prefixes, making it look like Moorpark is the only college in our district to offer Art History courses.

Art History classes, under the ART prefix, can be found in most programs offered within the Art Department:

- Ceramics AA
- Ceramics COA
- Fine Art AA
- Fine Art COA
- Studio Arts AA-T
- Art History AA-T

Any change in prefix for Art History classes requires the revision of all the above-listed Art Department programs.

Curriculum Changes and Curricular Clean-Up

In my current role as Curriculum Co-Chair I am aware of the fact that, at a curricular level, the state has also made two large changes in approach that will affect Art History offerings. Due to AB 928 (CalGETC) and AB 1111 (Common Course Numbering), the state is developing requirements regarding a shift to a common General Educational path and relative to Common Course Numbering (with the borrowing of C-ID prefixing and numbering expected). My F'23-S'24 Sabbatical, should I receive it, would allow me the time to implement the necessary changes for the Art History and Art curriculum. Of course, needless to say, any changes affecting numbering, like prefixing changes mentioned above, will also require revision not only of individual courses but also of the program(s) within which they appear. All Art History classes appear in multiple programs.

All Studio classes will also need updating as per these State mandates, necessitating additional revision for each program. Regardless of what happens with AB 928 and 1111, all Studio classes will also need revision to return to the standard 2-4 lecture-lab split as well (previously the Studio courses had all been changed to Carnegie units but this is not the standard in the field and with a compressed calendar and lab equalization on the horizon, the Art faculty wishes to return to the industry-standard 2-4 split for Studio courses).

What is more, Art Department curricula has undergone large-scale revision since 2018 to reintroduce many constituent elements of each course and program that were lost in the migration from CurricUNET to CourseLeaf (the Course Information Management systems used sequentially by the VCCCD). Even though most courses and programs within this area have been touched since that data loss, some clean-up is still needed in the Art History and related offerings.

Growth of Art History Offerings: The Addition of Classes to Support a Future Local AA

The other Art Historian in the Art Department has discussed with me her plans to apply for a future sabbatical in order to add a local degree path as a complement to the existing transfer degree. As local degree paths are not simple carbon copies of related transfer degrees, she and I

will work together to add needed courses prior to her writing of the new program. The additional classes we will write are designed to support the development of a local Art History degree that more directly compares with local degrees at other community colleges while also more effectively preparing students to transfer to complete a baccalaureate degree in a related discipline at a four-year institution. Because Art History classes share the same numbering system with Studio courses, this currently makes possible numbers for new Art History classes hard to come by. The existing Art History classes have used up the available numbers (from V01 through V09B) at the start of the numbering system and any new Art History classes would require larger renumbering efforts to facilitate A, B, C course strings despite the fact that no real sequential relationship exists between any of the affected classes. The only way to avoid this would be to take a number later down in the sequencing, far removed from the core grouping of Art History course work, which is equally problematic.

*Growth of Art History Offerings:
The Need for a COA*

In addition to local and transfer degrees in the field, students who plan to complete a baccalaureate degree in any area can be well served by also completing a minor in Art History. Students pursuing degrees in Business or Law, for instance, often benefit directly from bundling in an Art History minor as it provides models for how to process and analyze diverse data sets while also honing writing skills. As it stands, no Ventura College program of courses currently exists that allows students to get a head start on the lower division courses needed for an Art History minor upon transfer to a four-year institution. It is unlikely a student interested in an Art History minor upon transfer would be willing or able to complete the greater unit loads associated with the AA-Transfer degree in Art History while they also worked complete degree work in their major of choice.

Purpose of Sabbatical Project

With this sabbatical project, I propose to revise Art Department curriculum related to the Art History area with the following issues in mind, including the need for:

- A new prefix for Art History classes
 - In recognition of the distinct disciplinary approaches associated with Art History versus Studio courses and to create a more intuitive, representative, and easily accessible way of presenting Ventura College Art History courses
 - To give access to a new number schema, as needed with the introduction of new classes
 - In anticipation of, and in coordination with revisions required by, AB 928 and 1111 guidelines (expected to include mandated ARTH prefixing)
- New Art History classes to support the:
 - Subsequent development of a local AA
 - Concurrent development of a local COA
 - New Media Gallery and student access to hands on experience
- New Art History program development of a local COA
- Support for fellow Art Department faculty throughout the revision process required by AB 928 and 1111

- Given that I will be revising curricula in order to handle issues pertaining to the Art History prefix changes and the addition of new classes, this means I will necessarily need to revise all the affected programs; as I will already be revising these programs, it makes the most sense for me to complete the larger revisions to the Art Department curricula required by AB 928 and 1111.

Sabbatical Project Components

The tasks involved in this sabbatical project can be broken down as follows:

- Revision of all Art History courses to incorporate the ARTH prefix (serves approximately 1900-2000 students annually)
 - ART V01 (C-ID ARTH 100)
 - ART V02A (C-ID ARTH 110)
 - ART V02B (C-ID ARTH 120)
 - ART V02C
 - ART V02D
 - ART V03/AES V10
 - ART V04
 - ART V05
 - ART V06 (C-ID ARTH 150)
 - ART V07
 - ART V08/AES V65 (C-ID ARTH 130)
 - ART V09A (C-ID ARTH 145)
 - ART V09B/AES V66
- Addition of new Art History courses/reactivation of inactivated Art History courses:
 - Reactivation and revision of Gallery Technology and Management (formerly ART V10)
 - Addition of Introduction to Art Theory (possibly cross/co-listed with Philosophy)
 - Possible revision/addition of other classes during the development of the COA
- Revision of all programs containing Art History classes:
 - To introduce ARTH prefix
 - To add new class requirement options as appropriate
 - Programs to be revised include:
 - Ceramics AA
 - Contains 13 Art and Art History classes
 - Ceramics COA
 - Contains 13 Art and Art History classes
 - Fine Art AA
 - Contains 58 Art and Art History classes
 - Fine Art COA
 - Contains 58 Art and Art History classes
 - Studio Arts AA-T
 - Contains 30 Art and Art History classes
 - Art History AA-T
 - Contains 22 Art and Art History classes
- Creation of Art History COA

- Revision of all Art Department courses
 - To return to the 2-4 lecture-lab split
 - And to respond to state directives re: AB 928 and 1111
 - In addition to the Art History classes listed above, all Art Department classes will need to be touched, including:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ART V11A (C-ID ARTS 100) ▪ ART V11B (C-ID ARTS 270) ▪ ART V12A (C-ID ARTS 110) ▪ ART V12B (C-ID ARTS 205) ▪ ART V13A (C-ID ARTS 200) ▪ ART V13B ▪ ART V13C ▪ ART V13D ▪ ART V15A (C-ID ARTS 210) ▪ ART V15B ▪ ART V15C ▪ ART V16A (C-ID ARTS 210) ▪ ART V16B ▪ ART V19 (C-ID ARTS 101) ▪ ART V20A ▪ ART V20B ▪ ART V20C ▪ ART V25A ▪ ART V26A ▪ ART V26B ▪ ART V27/WEL V27 ▪ ART V29A ▪ ART V29B ▪ ART V46A (C-ID ARTS 210) ▪ ART V46B ▪ ART V47A ▪ ART V47B ▪ ART V50A ▪ ART V50B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ART V50C ▪ ART V50D ▪ ART V51A ▪ ART V51B ▪ ART V52A ▪ ART V52B ▪ ART V53A ▪ ART V53B ▪ ART V58A ▪ ART V58B ▪ ART V58C ▪ ART V60 ▪ ART V68 ▪ ART V70A/PHOT V70A ▪ ART V70B/PHOT V70B ▪ ART V71 ▪ ART V72 ▪ ART V73A/PHOT V73A ▪ ART V74A ▪ ART V74B ▪ ART V81 ▪ ART V90 ▪ ART V95 ▪ ART V96 ▪ PHOT V01 ▪ PHOT V02 ▪ PHOT V04A ▪ PHOT V04B ▪ PHOT V06A ▪ PHOT V06B ▪ PHOT V07 ▪ PHOT V08 ▪ PHOT V09A ▪ PHOT V09B ▪ PHOT V90
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- Submit all newly revised and/or created courses and programs to Ventura College's Curriculum Committee
- Shepherd the submissions through the approval process, revising along the way as needed

- Often courses and programs require additional revision during the process of Technical Review as they move through the Curricular process—I intend to close the loop on these programs/courses; in other words, I will not just submit them and expect them to be approved. I expect that no one will want to replace me as Curriculum Co-Chair when my term ends at the end of this year, so I will likely continue to serve as Co-Chair during the period of my sabbatical term—sabbatical leave permitting—this will help me attend to the Art Department curricula even as it moves through the behind-the-scenes process of Technical Review, followed by appearance on a Curriculum Committee agenda.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Ventura College Students

Being able to better identify Art History classes can only help VC students navigate the course schedule more effectively. As all the existing Art History classes fulfill local and transfer General Education requirements, it is to be expected that students will gravitate to the already-existing Art History search option in the schedule. Revising our Art History ART classes to the ARTH designation will solve this problem and reduce confusion in the long term.

In four-year degree programs, Art History also acts as a useful minor for a range of majors, most obviously in the Studio Arts and related fields like Architecture. Because it clearly assists with the development of writing and argumentation skills as well as critical thinking and the ability to process, analyze, and interpret a wide variety of data sets in context, it also provides excellent support for more distant areas like Business or pre-Law. The development of additional courses and a COA allows students flexibility in engaging with the discipline, either through the development of additional knowledge and skillsets beyond that offered by the Transfer model Curriculum already found in the Art History AA-T or through a COA allowing more focused study designed to support the development of a minor upon transfer to a four-year institution.

The State directives regarding CalGETC (AB 928) and Common Course Numbering (AB 1111) are designed also with students in mind. Adhering to the guidelines regarding the implementation of these ABs can only help students (and assist in assuring continued accreditation, another benefit to students).

Value of Sabbatical Project to the Art Department, Ventura College, and the District

First, the most obvious value my sabbatical work will provide is to the Art Department and associated faculty and students. Having a clearer set of Art History classes, combined with more robust offerings, will reduce confusion and offer more options for students interested in exploring the field. It will also provide studio majors with more options for the art history requirements within their chosen major field; greater choice directly and indirectly supports the faculty in related Studio fields.

My work will set up the development of the local AA degree that my colleague and fellow art historian within the department plans to develop in a subsequent sabbatical. With the reactivation of the Gallery Technology and Management course, it also will support the running of the gallery, which simultaneously gives students much-needed and presently lacking, real-world, hands-on experience in an oft-chosen career path for Art Historians.

I also plan to support my fellow Art Department faculty by conducting revision of ART courses as needed regarding AB 928 and 1111. This will be a great benefit to the ART faculty as it will effectively mean that they can continue teaching without taking too much time away to worry about effecting these course and program revisions themselves.

If I also continue on in my role as Curriculum Co-Chair, this work will only hone my skills regarding the kinds of revisions needed to accommodate the changes required by AB 928 and 1111 while also building my knowledge base on the topic. More awareness in this area will come as a great benefit to the College and to the District as we navigate the rocky curricular waters ahead. Of course, having clearer program mapping within the Art Department also benefits the college and the district.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Instructor

This project provides great value to me as it allows me the time to affect all the needed revisions for the entire Art History program as well as the affected Studio programs. In a regular year, between teaching my course load plus acting as Curriculum Co-Chair, I do not have time to develop such wider ranging curricular revisions and additions. Indeed, if I do not receive sabbatical leave, then I anticipate only having time to adjust the individual Art History courses under my purview when we receive further guidance from the state. In contrast, my sabbatical project will not only allow me the time to make the above stated revisions, it will also help me develop a depth of knowledge concerning the state directives that would not otherwise be possible. Assuming I continue as Curriculum Co-Chair, this knowledge will be of paramount importance for me moving forward.

My thanks to the committee for the time taken in evaluating this proposal.

With gratitude,
Maline

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