

MUSEUM STUDIES (BRYN MAWR)

Department Website:

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/museumstudies>

Students may complete a minor in Museum Studies.

Museum Studies is a program that offers students a rich and dynamic education in both museum theory and practice. Students have the opportunities to learn about the history of museums and their roles in society as well as to engage with critical, theoretical museum scholarship. Through coursework and internships, students will also have the opportunity to gain practical hands-on experience in Bryn Mawr's Special Collections as well as in museums in Philadelphia and beyond. This dynamic and interdisciplinary program intersects disciplines such as the History of Art, Anthropology, Archaeology, History, Education, Cities, Biology and Geology. The Bryn Mawr Museum Studies program aims to empower students to become significant contributors to various professions throughout museums, galleries and archives.

The Museum Studies program calls upon the College's extensive collection of art and artifacts, rare books and prints, photographs and manuscripts, which facilitates research and experiential learning for students. Through Bryn Mawr's Special Collections, students can draw upon the in-house expertise of a strong group of curators and other museum professionals working in the department. Bryn Mawr is in close proximity to the museum-rich Philadelphia region, and students have the opportunity to work with distinguished and diverse museum professionals across the city.

Sourced from the Bryn Mawr College website: <https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/academic-information/departments-programs/museum-studies/program-requirements-opportunities>

Minor Requirements

The requirements for the minor are:

2 Core Courses:

- HART B275 Museum Studies: History, Theory, Practice
- HART B420 Museum Studies Fieldwork Seminar (or a similar praxis internship course)

4 Elective Courses:

A student can take four elective courses related to museum studies. These can be courses that are currently listed as official "Museum Studies" courses

or any relevant courses that have museum studies content (with permission of the Director of Museum Studies).

Sourced from the Bryn Mawr College website: <https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/academic-information/departments-programs/museum-studies/program-requirements-opportunities>

Steering Committee

A steering committee administers the Museum Studies program at Bryn Mawr. Many other faculty contribute courses to the program; see the Courses section for a representative listing.

Carrie Robbins

Curator, Academic Liaison for Art & Artifacts

Monique Scott

Associate Professor of History of Art and Director of Museum Studies

Courses

Africana Studies Courses

AFST B204 #BLACKLIVESMATTEREVERYWHERE (1 Credit)

Paul Joseph López Oro

#BlackLivesMatterEverywhere: Ethnographies & Theories on the African Diaspora is a interdisciplinary course closely examines political, cultural, intellectual, and spiritual mobilizations for Black Lives on local, global and hemispheric levels. We will engage an array of materials ranging from literature, history, oral histories, folklore, dance, music, popular culture, social media, ethnography, and film/documentaries. By centering the political and intellectual labor of Black women and LGBTQ folks at the forefront of the movements for Black Lives, we unapologetically excavate how *#BlackLivesMatterEverywhere* has a long and rich genealogy in the African diaspora. Lastly, students will be immersed in Black queer feminist theorizations on diaspora, political movements, and the multiplicities of Blackness.
(Offered: Spring 2026)

AFST B206 BLACK LATINX AMERICAS: MOVEMENTS, POLITICS, & CULTURES (1.0 Credit)

Paul Joseph López Oro

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World
This interdisciplinary course examines the extensive and diverse histories, social movements, political mobilization and cultures of Black people (Afrodescendientes) in Latin America and the Caribbean. While the course will begin in the slavery era, most of our scholarly-activist attention

will focus on the histories of peoples of African descent in Latin America after emancipation to the present. Some topics we will explore include: the particularities of slavery in the Americas, the Haitian Revolution and its impact on articulations of race and nation in the region, debates on “racial democracy,” the relationship between gender, class, race, and empire, and recent attempts to write Afro-Latin American histories from “transnational” and “diaspora” perspectives. We will engage the works of historians, activists, artists, anthropologists, sociologists, and political theorists who have been key contributors to the rich knowledge production on Black Latin America.
(Offered: Spring 2026)

Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology Courses

ARCH B101 INTRODUCTION TO EGYPTIAN AND NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Henry Colburn

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

A historical survey of the archaeology and art of the ancient Near East and Egypt.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

ARCH B102 INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Rocco Palermo

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

A historical survey of the archaeology and art of Greece, Etruria, and Rome.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

ARCH B203 BUILDING THE POLIS: ANCIENT GREEK CITIES AND SANCTUARIES (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

A study of the co-development of the Greek city-states and their sanctuaries. Archaeological evidence is surveyed in its historic context. The political formation of the city-state and the role of religion is presented, and the political, economic, and religious institutions of the city-states are explored with a focus on regional variations in timelines of development, building styles, and connectivity. The logistics of building construction, religious travel, and interregional influences will also be addressed.

ARCH B229 VISUAL CULTURE OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (1.0 Credit)

Henry Colburn

This course examines the visual culture of the Ancient Near East based on an extensive body of architectural, sculptural, and pictorial evidence dating from prehistoric times through the fifth century BCE. We will explore how a variety of surviving art, artifacts, sculpture, monuments,

and architecture deriving from geographically distinct areas of the ancient Near East, such as Mesopotamia, the Eastern Mediterranean, Anatolia, and Iran, may have been viewed and experienced in their historical contexts, including the contribution of ancient materials and technologies of production in shaping this viewing and experience. By focusing on selected examples of diverse evidence, we will also consider how past and current scholarly methods and approaches, many of them art-historical, archaeological, and architectural in aim, have affected the understanding and interpretation of this evidence. In doing so, we will pay special attention to critical terms such as aesthetics, style, narrative, representation, and agency.
(Offered: Spring 2026)

ARCH B252 POMPEII (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Introduces students to a nearly intact archaeological site whose destruction by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 C.E. was recorded by contemporaries. The discovery of Pompeii in the mid-1700s had an enormous impact on 18th- and 19th-century views of the Roman past as well as styles and preferences of the modern era. Informs students in classical antiquity, urban life, city structure, residential architecture, home decoration and furnishing, wall painting, minor arts and craft and mercantile activities within a Roman city.

ARCH B256 CLASSICAL MYTHS IN ART AND IN THE SKY (1.0 Credit)

Astrid Lindenlauf

Division: Humanities

This course explores Greek and Roman mythology using an archaeological and art historical approach, focusing on the ways in which the traditional tales of the gods and heroes were depicted, developed and transmitted in the visual arts such as vase painting and architectural sculpture, as well as projected into the natural environment.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

ARCH B347 ANCIENT ARTIFACTS IN THE BRYN MAWR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (1.0 Credit)

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

Centered on the question, how we can learn from and through objects, this course explores a selected corpus of artifacts from the ancient Mediterranean in the Bryn Mawr Special Collections with the aim to uncover how these objects were made and used and what they might have meant to their ancient users. Students will handle, study, and interpret a variety of artifacts made of clay, metal, stone, and glass, ranging from vessels, mirrors, and statuettes to mosaics and frescoes used originally in a variety of contexts of ancient Mediterranean daily life and

spanning now their second-life as constituents of the Bryn Mawr Special Collections. Through close observation and analysis of the procurement and trade of the raw materials of these objects and their manufacturing techniques and decoration, including its themes, which extend from daily scenes and mythological tales to colorful abstract motifs and intriguing inscriptions, students will examine the use and function of these artifacts as evidence of meaningful ancient Mediterranean cultural thought, behavior, and experience. Interpretation will be based on close observation and active and experiential learning, through tactile engagement with these objects, comparing and contrasting them, studying their conservation, and inquiring, through deep critical thinking, archival work, and reflexivity, about their provenience, collecting, and digital itineraries. Prerequisites: ARCH B101 and B102.

Education Courses

EDUC B300 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING: THEORY, RESEARCH, AND PRACTICE (1.0 Credit)

Alice Lesnick

As one of the foundations of education studies, community-engaged learning requires that students integrate academic and experiential learning, which depends on the development of knowledge, skills, and dispositions to learn from field experience. By examining and enacting community-engaged learning from the perspectives of theory, research, and practice, advanced Education students in this course will extend and deepen prior experience in an educational organization with a blend of continued field work, associated research, and mentoring of Education students new to the setting. Through this approach, enrolled students will a) build an enriched relational, contextual (policy-based and geographic) and historical understanding of a specific educational organization; b) gain an understanding of how practitioners and learners in that site conceptualize their work and goals; and c) study and practice methods for initiating and supporting students of education in successful, imaginative working relationships that foster community-engaged learning towards equity and justice. (Offered: Fall 2025)

EDUC H311 THEORIES OF CHANGE IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (1.0 Credit)

Kelly Zuckerman

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

A culminating capstone for seniors pursuing the major and minor in Educational Studies through the Education Department, this course uses the frame of “theories of change” to examine how transformation can occur within educational institutions and beyond.

Through weekly readings as well as embodiment opportunities and campus-based excursions and speakers, students examine changemaking and changemakers in a variety of domains including museums, the natural world, academic scholarship, music, dance, gastronomy, and design, among others. In doing so, students are encouraged to explore and experience a wide range of approaches to identifying issues, envisioning alternative outcomes, and developing and implementing action strategies. Weekly fieldwork in an educational institution further supports this exploration, as students begin to crystalize and map their own views on changemaking and their identity as agents of transformation around a particular issue of interest. The course culminates in the creation of a capstone portfolio documenting the breadth and depth of students’ experience in the Education Department. Prerequisite(s): Students completing the major or minor in Educational Studies (Offered: Spring 2026)

French and French Studies Courses

FREN B105 DIRECTIONS DE LA FRANCE CONTEMPORAINE (1.0 Credit)

Agnès Peysson-Zeiss, Corine Ragueneau

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Ce cours se donne pour but de vous faire goûter à la culture française actuelle, mais aussi de vous donner une idée claire de la société où elle naît. Nous en aborderons des aspects très variés en nous concentrant sur ces institutions dont le fonctionnement la distingue d’autres pays (école, hôpital, etc.). Les films que nous allons voir nous permettront d’analyser ces particularités françaises. Il s’agit également de vous encourager à vous exprimer aisément en français : les discussions seront privilégiées et nous réviserons régulièrement des points de grammaire afin d’améliorer votre expression tant écrite qu’orale. Au terme de ce cours, vous pourrez vivre en France sans vous sentir sur une planète étrangère. Prerequisite: FREN 005 or 101.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

History of Art Courses

HART B120 HISTORY OF CHINESE ART (1.0 Credit)

Jie Shi

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course is a survey of the arts of China from Neolithic to the contemporary period, focusing on bronze vessels of the Shang and Zhou dynasties, the Chinese appropriation of Buddhist art, and the evolution of landscape and figure painting traditions. This course was formerly numbered HART

B274; students who previously completed HART B274 may not repeat this course.
(Offered: Fall 2025)

HART B201 CRITICAL APPROACHES TO VISUAL REPRESENTATION: MEDIEVAL/MODERN (1.0 Credit)

Alicia Walker

Division: Humanities

This is a topics course. Course content varies. This course is writing intensive. This course examines intersections between the medieval and modern worlds through art and architecture. Students study medieval works of art and/or architecture as well as their afterlives in the modern era, as realized through revivals of style and form, museum exhibition excavation, alteration and adaptation for reuse, etc. There are no prerequisites for this course. Enrollment preference given to majors and minors in History of Art.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

HART B275 MUSEUM STUDIES: HISTORY, THEORY, PRACTICE (1.0 Credit)

Monique Scott

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

Using the museums of Philadelphia as field sites, this course provides an introduction to the theoretical and practical aspects of museum studies and the important synergies between theory and practice. Students will learn: the history of museums as institutions of recreation, education and leisure; how the museum itself became a symbol of power, prestige and sometimes alienation; debates around the ethics and politics of collecting objects of art, culture and nature; and the qualities that make an exhibition effective (or not). By visiting exhibitions and meeting with a range of museum professionals in art, anthropology and science museums, this course offers a critical perspective on the inner workings of the museum as well as insights into the “new museology.” Not open to first-year students. Enrollment preference given to minors in Museum Studies. This course was formerly numbered HART B281; students who previously completed HART B281 may not repeat this course.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

HART B340 TOPICS IN MATERIAL CULTURE (1.0 Credit)

Sylvia Houghteling

This is a topics course. Course content varies. This course was formerly numbered HART B345.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

HART B365 EXHIBITING AFRICA: MEANING MAKING ACROSS THE AFRICAN DIASPORA (1.0 Credit)

Monique Scott

At the turn of the 20th century, the Victorian natural history museum played an important role in constructing and disseminating images of Africa to the Western public. The history of museum representations of Africa and Africans reveals that exhibitions—both museum exhibitions and “living” World’s Fair exhibitions— has long been deeply embedded in politics, including the persistent “othering” of African people as savages or primitives. While paying attention to stereotypical exhibition tropes about Africa, we will also consider how art museums are creating new constructions of Africa and how contemporary curators and conceptual artists are creating complex, challenging new ways of understanding African identities. This course was formerly numbered HART B279; students who previously completed HART B279 may not repeat this course.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

HART B420 MUSEUM STUDIES FIELDWORK (1.0 Credit)

Monique Scott

This course provides students a forum in which to ground, frame and discuss their hands-on work in museums, galleries, archives or collections. Whether students have arranged an internship at a local institution or want to pursue one in the Bryn Mawr College Collections, this course will provide a framework for these endeavors, coupling praxis with theory supported by readings from the discipline of Museum Studies. The course will culminate in a final presentation, an opportunity to reflect critically on the internship experience. Prior to taking the course, students will develop a Praxis Learning Plan through the Career and Civic Engagement office. All students will share a set syllabus, common learning objectives and readings, but will also be able to tailor those objectives to the specific museum setting or Special Collections project in which they are involved. Note: Students are eligible to take up to two Praxis Fieldwork Seminars or Praxis Independent Studies during their time at Bryn Mawr.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

History Courses

HIST B208 MONUMENTS, MUSEUMS, AND MEMORY (1.0 Credit)

Stephen Vider

In this course we will examine how U.S. history circulates in public, investigating the ways scholarly, curatorial, archival, and creative practices shape popular conceptions of the American past, in particular understandings of racial, gender, sexual,

and class oppression and resistance. Students will build skills in historical interpretation and archival research and explore possibilities and challenges in preserving and presenting the past in a variety of public contexts—monuments, memorials, museums, historical sites, movies and television, genealogy, and community-based history projects.

HIST B237 THEMES IN MODERN AFRICAN HISTORY (1.0 Credit)

Kalala Ngalamulume

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

This is a topics course. Course content varies (**Offered:** Spring 2026)

HIST H299 HISTORICAL METHODS LAB: ARCHIVE THEORY AND PRACTICE (1.0 Credit)

Marlen Rosas

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

In recent decades, the historical concept of “the archive” has served as a cornerstone for inquiry across disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. At a moment of dramatic transformation in archival practice through digital technologies, one that is fundamentally altering the nature of archives and our relationship to them, this course introduces students to the interdisciplinary theory and practice of the archive as method, material culture, power, and idea of the world. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above

Italian and Italian Studies Courses

ITAL B240 PHILADELPHIA THE GLOBAL CITY: THE ITALIAN LEGACY ACROSS TIME (1.0 Credit)

Luca Zipoli

This course investigates the history and evolution of Philadelphia as a globalized and multi-ethnic city, using as a case study for this analysis the impact and legacy of transnational Italian culture across the centuries. By adopting a cross-cultural, trans-historical, and interdisciplinary approach, the course explores the influence that — along with and in intersection with many other cultural inputs — also Italian arts and cultures have exerted on the city, making it become the cosmopolitan and transnational urban environment that it is today. Throughout the centuries and way before Italy even started existing as a state, Philadelphians traveled to the peninsula and brought back objects to display in emerging cultural institutions or studied the country’s art and architecture styles to shape the evolving aspect of the city. Simultaneously, incoming immigration formed new neighborhoods — such as South Philly, home to the Italian Market — and Italian figures came to prominence and became part of the

social fabric of the city. Nowadays, many non-profit organizations work to preserve the traces that Italian migrants left within Philadelphia’s multi-ethnic urban environment as well as to extend the city’s global profile and celebrate its heritage and diversity. Through specific field trips, on-site experiential activities, and forms of civic engagement this course highlights both the enduring fascination of Philadelphians with Italy (or with the idea thereof) across the centuries and the role that the Italian Diaspora played in the development of the city. The course ultimately challenges geographical, chronological, and cultural boundaries by showing how places, arts, identities that today are perceived as ‘American’ have in most cases an intersectional, multi-ethnic, and cross-cultural history to tell. This course will be taught in Philadelphia as part of the Tri-Co Philly Program. All readings and class discussion will be in English, and no knowledge of Italian is required. Students seeking Italian credits will complete their assignments in the target language.

(**Offered:** Fall 2025)

Psychology Courses

PSYC B231 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Magdalena Leszko

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

This course will provide an overview of the field of health psychology using lecture, exams, videos, assignments, and an article critique. We will examine the current definition of health psychology, as well as the theories and research behind many areas in health psychology (both historical and contemporary). The course will focus on specific health and social psychological theories, empirical research, and applying the theory and research to real world situations. Prerequisite: Introductory Psychology (PSYC B105) or Foundations of Psychology (PSYC H100). Students may take either this course or HLTH/PSYC H245 not both.

(**Offered:** Fall 2025)

Religion Courses

RELG H131 THE LURE OF IMAGES: RELIGION AND VISUAL MEDIA (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course examines representations from figural forms to abstractions, found objects and beautiful writing to understand the power of sacred imagery. We will examine formats from medieval manuscripts and painted walls to films, panoramas and comic books to observe the dynamics that emerge among viewers and images in spatial contexts ranging from altar pieces, sculpture, stained glass and painting in neo-Gothic churches, calligraphy in mosque and

shrine interiors, deity icons in Hindu temples and potent fabrics in Buddhist monastic complexes.
Crosslisted: VIST.

Spanish Courses

SPAN B312 LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO ART AND THE QUESTION OF THE MASSES (1.0 Credit)

Martín Gaspar

The course examines the ways in which Latin American and Latino texts (paintings, murals, sculptures, and some narratives) construct "minor," "featureless" and "anonymous" characters, thus demarcating how and which members of society can and cannot advance a plot, act independently and/or be agents of change. By focusing the attention on what is de-emphasized, we will explore how artistic works, through their form, are themselves political actors in the social life of Latin America, the US, and beyond. We will also consider the place of Latin American and Latino Art in the US imaginary and in institutions such as museums and galleries. Prerequisites: Course is taught in English. Students seeking Spanish credit must have taken at least one Spanish course at the 200-level, or received permission from instructor. Course does not meet an Approach. Counts toward Latin American, Iberian and Latina/o Studies. Counts toward Museum Studies. Counts toward History of Art.
(Offered: Fall 2025)

Visual Studies Courses

VIST H131 THE LURE OF IMAGES: RELIGION AND VISUAL MEDIA (1.0 Credit)

Staff

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course examines representations from figural forms to abstractions, found objects and beautiful writing to understand the power of sacred imagery. We will examine formats from medieval manuscripts and painted walls to films, panoramas and comic books to observe the dynamics that emerge among viewers and images in spatial contexts ranging from altar pieces, sculpture, stained glass and painting in neo-Gothic churches, calligraphy in mosque and shrine interiors, deity icons in Hindu temples and potent fabrics in Buddhist monastic complexes.
Crosslisted: VIST.