

# Art History and Religious Studies

## Department Overview

The [Department of Art History and Religious Studies](#) offers a [Certificate in Art History](#) that is intended for students from all disciplines who are interested in developing visual literacy - an indispensable skill that enables students to recognize, interpret and appreciate meaning in an image-saturated world.

The department also offers support courses in Art History and Religious Studies for several Langara programs. The courses the department offers carry university transfer credit and are a major component of arts, humanities and other specialized degrees.

## Self-Study

Art History and Religious Studies launched its program review in academic year 2019/20 with a Self-Study. Alena Buis, the Department Chair, was the primary Self-Study writer. Additional support was provided by:

- Tess MacMillan (Division Chair, Humanities)
- Julie Longo (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (e.g., headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey

The Self-Study was completed in October 2020.

## External Review

Art History and Religious Studies' External Review took place on November 19, 2020. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Stephanie Aitken, Fine Arts, Langara (External Review Chair)
- Catherine Harding, PhD, Department of Art History and Visual Studies, University of Victoria
- Erin Silver, PhD, Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, University of British Columbia

## Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Art History and Religious Studies created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Program vision.
- Goal 2: Strengthen student support.
- Goal 3: Foster department's environmental, financial and social security.

## Examples of Post-Review Successes

### **2021/22**

The department has added three new courses to reflect issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. The

Department Chair co-organized the 2022 Pedagogy Institute, a SSHRC-funded arts educators conference. Department faculty have been developing open textbooks/resources for their courses.

**2023/24**

Course titles have been updated for AHIS 1115, AHIS 1215, AHIS 1216, AHIS 1218, AHIS 1301, and AHIS 1302 to better reflect the current state of the discipline.