The Graduate/Professional Certificate in Visual Cultures is intended for master’s degree students (usually MFA and terminal M.A. candidates) from across the university who desire training in the study of visual cultures. This transdisciplinary field analyzes the social construction of the visual as well as how the visual creates our social world. Visual culture studies differs from other related disciplines in two ways: first, its field of inquiry includes an expansive array of visual cultural artifacts and practices; and, second, its methodologies focus on the constitution of power relations through visual markers of race, gender, disability, and nationality. As the world continues to become increasingly understood through, and reliant on, the visual (the internet, films, television, scientific graphs, data visualization, video games, and advertisements), the need for people trained with the ability to critically interpret, create, and evaluate those mediums is essential.

ADMISSIONS

Interested students declare the certificate by contacting Paola Hernández (director and advisor, at pshernandez@wisc.edu) and submitting a declaration form.

REQUIREMENTS

The Graduate/Professional Certificate in Visual Cultures is a research-driven certificate. Selection of courses should contribute to your professional development. The certificate is awarded upon successful completion of 9 graduate-level credits in a combination of required and elective coursework, with a GPA of 3.0 (4.0 basis).

Code | Title | Credits
--- | --- | ---
| Required courses (complete both): | | |
ART HIST/AFROAMER 801 | Historiography, Theory and Methods in Visual Culture | 3
ART HIST/AFROAMER 802 | Visual Cultures: Topics in Visual Cultures | 3
| Electives (complete at least 3 credits): | | 3
ASIAN 763 | Studies in Japanese Literature | 
ART HIST 355 | History of Photography | 
ART 470 | Special Topics in 4D Art | 
AFROAMER/GEN&WS 679 | Visual Culture, Gender and Critical Race Theory | 
GEN&WS 340 | Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality | 
GEN&WS 371 | Disability and Gender in Film | 
GEOG 501 | Space and Place: A Geography of Experience | 
DS 642 | Taste | 
COM ARTS 451 | Television Criticism | 

Total Credits: 9

Substitutions for this course may be available, contact the CVC director for more information.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Show comprehension of the history, theories, and methods of Visual Culture as a field of study as they are practiced in the field of Visual Cultures.
2. Demonstrate critical ability to work with and develop Visual Culture theories and methods.
3. Develop capacity to conduct original research in Visual Culture.
4. Show ability to work with Visual Culture theories and methods in the analysis and presentation of original research which may take oral, written, and visual forms.
5. Develop the critical analytic, rhetorical, and technical skills necessary to effectively communicate original research in Visual Culture.

PEOPLE

CVC DIRECTOR
Paola Hernández (Spanish and Portuguese)
STEERING COMMITTEE

- Faisal Abdu’Allah (Art)
- Mercedes Alcalá-Galán (Spanish and Portuguese)
- Jill Casid (Visual Culture/Art History)
- Christine Garlough (Gender and Women’s Studies)
- Eric Hoyt (Media and Cultural Studies/Communication Arts)
- Adam Kern (Visual Culture/East Asian Languages and Literature)
- Sarah Ann Wells (Comparative Literature)
- Keith Woodward (Geography)

PROGRAM ASSISTANT:
Sara Champlin (Art History)

A list of affiliate faculty may be found here (https://cvc.wisc.edu/people/affiliate-faculty/).