

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 33910
Name: Technical Analysis and Appraisal of Cultural Goods
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1006 - Degree in History of Art	Facultat de Geografia i Història	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1006 - Degree in History of Art	Contemporary art and media	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

In this subject, students delve into various techniques that facilitate an initial approach to art diagnostics, understood as a discipline linked to art history that is becoming increasingly established. The work of an art historian in art diagnosis requires functioning within interdisciplinary teams that achieve a comprehensive and holistic approach to the artwork. Interdisciplinarity, knowledge of innovative analytical techniques for the technical and material understanding of the artwork, and the interpretation of these results at a historical, cultural, and symbolic level are aspects that will be addressed in this subject.

The knowledge acquired offers future graduates of the Art History degree new avenues for professional development within the discipline, applicable to diverse fields such as teaching, preventive conservation, and the art market, among others. The acquired knowledge also includes the development of skills for preparing technical reports.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.



OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No prior knowledge is required.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1006 - Degree in History of Art

Ability to develop and deliver content, both orally and in writing, to both specialized and non-specialized audiences

Ability to develop and present orally or in writing management projects related to the professional activities of Art History

Ability to gather and interpret relevant data and make judgments that include reflection on aspects of artistic production in its different facets

Ability to interpret the environment based on analysis, observation and deduction of information from artistic works produced throughout history

Ability to solve problems that arise in the professional practice as an art historian or as a heritage manager

Ability to work in a team and to integrate into multidisciplinary teams from other areas of knowledge

Act autonomously in learning, making informed decisions in different contexts, forming judgements based on experimentation and analysis, and transferring knowledge to new situations.

Apply a scientific methodology to any type of action and decision related to knowledge of Art History

Apply different methodologies to the comprehensive analysis of the work of art

Applying acquired knowledge in the field of heritage to current problems in the conservation and management of historical, artistic and cultural heritage

Applying interdisciplinary knowledge from the humanities and music history to artistic research

Apply knowledge of collection management to inventory, documentation, cataloging, exhibitions, and dissemination of art

Apply the knowledge acquired in formulating hypotheses, synthesizing information, and formulating conclusions in an organized manner.

Apply the knowledge on documentation, composition of materials and construction techniques in the study and management
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Be able to analyse and synthesise information from the various contents of art history and to apply it to professional practice.

Be able to apply a scientific methodology to any type of action and decision in relation to art history.



Be able to apply basic knowledge to future professional situations through appropriate organisation and planning of the contents of art history.

Be able to apply the basic knowledge acquired by means of applying critical reasoning to the analysis and assessment of alternatives.

Be able to convey information, both orally and in writing, to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Be able to gather and interpret relevant data and to reflect and make judgments on different aspects of artistic production.

Be able to read the environment from the analysis, observation and deduction of information from artistic works produced throughout history.

Be able to solve the problems that may arise in professional practice as an art historian or heritage manager.

Be able to use the knowledge acquired to formulate hypotheses, make summaries and draw orderly conclusions.

Be acquainted with historical-artistic heritage.

Capacity to recognize diversity and multiculturalism through the connection and study of other cultures

Collaborate effectively in teams, assuming responsibilities and leadership roles and contributing to collective improvement and development.

Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, adapting to the characteristics of the situation and the audience.

Contribute to the design, development and implementation of solutions that address social needs, taking the Sustainable Development Goals as a reference.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical reasoning within the field of study, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities undertaken.

Develop autonomous learning and the necessary skills that promote interpersonal relationships

Develop skills for independent learning and for interpersonal relations.

Embrace motivation for quality through a personal ethical commitment to the professional environment

Express oneself correctly, both orally and in writing, in any of the official languages of the Valencian Community.

Interpret graphics, photographs, moving images, computer graphics, and materials related to works of art, applying instrumental knowledge of Art History

Knowledge of Contemporary Art

Knowledge of Historical and Artistic Heritage



Knowledge of the different languages, procedures, and techniques of artistic production throughout history

Knowledge of the main databases and specialized bibliographic sources

Prepare state-of-the-art reports based on information from documentation relating to artistic works

Propose creative and innovative solutions to complex situations or problems within the field of study, in order to respond to diverse professional and social needs.

Recognizing the importance of continuing education in order to update knowledge and contribute to the advancement of the humanities

To express oneself orally and in writing in one's own language.

To use appropriate terminology and technical vocabulary of art history

To value artistic production from the perspective of sustainability and equality among people, contributing to the development of democratic values and a culture of peace.

Understand and recognise, from within the discipline, inequalities based on sex and gender in society; integrate different needs and preferences related to sex and gender into problem-solving and solution design.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Description of the work of art

Works of art require the use of materials for its execution, the choice of which was often based on various technical, cultural, or symbolic reasons. This subject takes the work of art as its primary source and analyzes written sources, mostly technical treatises, but also others such as diaries or correspondence, which provide valuable information on how works of art were conceived from a technical and material point of view. We will focus primarily on dyes and pigments, which were present not only in paintings but also in architecture, sculpture, and the applied arts. Students will gradually become familiar with the historical evolution of color, binders, and supports, and the close relationship between certain choices made by artists and the periods and cultures to which they belonged.

2. The Study of Materials and Techniques

The aim of this subject is also to introduce the organoleptic and analytical techniques that bring us closer to understanding the materials and techniques used in works of art. Through highly precise scientific equipment, the artwork reveals its components, which, once identified, we can analyze with the support of technical treatises from the period (previous section). The connection between the analytical result, the written source, and the visual source highlights the importance of approaching the understanding of the artwork by combining these three lines of research.



3. Photographic Documentation

We will delve into the various photographic techniques that allow us to accurately document the artwork and its stratigraphy. Specifically, we will initially address the topic of photography obtained through visible light: General, Grazing or Tangential, Reflected or Surface Image, Close-ups, Macrophotography, Transmitted Light Photography, Polarized Light Photography, Monochromatic Sodium Light Photography, and Photomicroscopy. Next, we will focus on photographs obtained through non-visible radiation, which include: ultraviolet fluorescence photography, reflected ultraviolet photography, black and white infrared photography, color infrared photography, reflectography, and X-rays.

4. Conservation of Works of Art

Knowledge of the materials and techniques used in works of art is fundamental for developing effective preventive conservation plans. This is a task that must be carried out by the art historian, who will consider external and internal factors that will be analyzed in this course. Among the external factors, for example, we will delve into those related to climate, humidity, temperature, and increasingly frequent anthropogenic risks. Internal factors that can jeopardize the preventive conservation of works of art will be the focus of most of the content in this section. We will analyze incompatibilities between the materials used and the techniques employed, or, for example, between these and the supports.

All of this makes it possible to develop preventive conservation plans to be considered in packaging, transport, installation, and exhibitions, among other aspects.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Laboratory	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	5,00
Individual or group project	30,00
Independent study and work	10,00
Preparation of lessons	10,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	30,00
Total hours	95,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Classes will be conducted in a theoretical-practical format. At least one session per week will be dedicated to familiarizing students with the photographic, organoleptic, and analytical techniques included in the



syllabus as part of the subject content. The interpretation of the results obtained will be based on written sources and specialized literature, as well as the theoretical content covered in class.

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EVALUATION

Final exam: 60%

Practical assignments, coursework, or supplementary activities: 40%

WRITTEN TEST: The written test will account for **60%** of the grade. It may consist of a technical report or a theoretical-practical exam.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE: This will account for **20%** of the final grade. Students will be required to analyze artistic materials using one of the techniques covered in class.

SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITY: This will account for **20%** of the final grade. The supplementary activity may consist of a reading quiz, assignment, presentation, or technical visit.

The grades obtained in the first exam session for the practical component and the supplementary activity will be saved and will contribute to the average in the second exam session. A score of 5 is required on the written exam to be included in the average and to pass the subject, in both the first and second exam sessions.

Regarding the use of AI in final-year projects, Master's dissertations or doctoral theses, and for the declaration of responsible use of AI, please refer to the "Guia d'actuació per a l'ús responsable de la intel·ligència artificial (IA) en les activitats docents i d'avaluació a la Universitat de València", available at the following link: https://www.uv.es/graus/normatives/Guia_actuacio_IA_UV.pdf

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