

VII. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:

- A. The Studio / Thesis
 - 1. The thesis
 - 2. Studio research
 - 3. Combining creative studio and written thesis
- B. Conducting Research
 - 1. Finding a topic
 - 2. Limiting the topic
 - 3. Considering the sources
 - 4. Conducting research
 - 5. Brainstorming and making an outline
 - 6. Beginning the written component
- D. The Studio / Thesis Prospectus
 - 1. Review of Literature
 - 2. Problem Statement
 - 3. Research Methodology
 - 4. Potential Significance of the Research
 - 5. Limitations
 - 6. Definition of Terms
 - 7. Annotated Bibliography
- E. Writing Styles
- F. Visual Research
 - 1. Defining a problem
 - 2. Identifying a line of investigation
 - 3. Connecting with the written research
 - 4. Preparation of a visual model
 - 5. Execution of works of art

VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Methods and activities for instruction will include:

- A. Group Discussion
- B. Studio Projects
- C. Library Research
- D. Reading Assignments
- E. Written Assignments
- F. Independent Research

IX. ASSIGNMENTS

- A. **Research Problem Statement** The research problem is the critical component of the studio / thesis. It proposes a visual search and defines the written support. The problem statement usually focuses on a problem for which one will try to develop a solution. It may involve a studio work, historical research, or a conceptual idea. The research problem is often phrased as a question and may have sub-problems.
- B. **Prospectus for the Studio / Thesis.** A prospectus is a plan for the writing and visual component of the studio / thesis. The primary component of the studio / thesis is the statement of the research problem. Other components of the prospectus are: Review of Literature, Problem Statement, Research Methodology, Potential Significance of the Research, Limitations, and Definition of Terms. The prospectus will be sent to the Graduate School for approval and signature. The prospectus follows the prescribed format outlined by the Graduate School of Mississippi College and is written in the APA writing style.
www.mc.edu/publications/graduate/thesisprep.html
- C. **Annotated References.** An annotated reference is a list of references used in the prospectus with an accompanying abstract. This reference list must contain at least three types of references (e.g., books, journals). The annotated reference list is written in and follows the APA writing style and is a required component for the prospectus as prescribed by the Graduate School of Mississippi College.
- D. **Thesis Outline.** Develop a detailed outline for the studio / thesis.

X. EVALUATION

Requirement		Value
Individual Conferences / Preparedness		10%
Written Prospectus and Annotated References for the Studio / Thesis		60%
■ Research Problem Statement and Model	25%	
■ Review of Literature	35%	
■ Research Methodology	20%	
■ Annotated References	20%	
Progress on Studio Component		20%
Detailed Outline for Thesis		10%

XI. GRADING SCALE

Please refer to the attached Addendum to Graduate Syllabi.

XII. OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

Please refer to the attached Addendum to Graduate Syllabi.

XIII. LIST OF MATERIALS

To be discussed for this class.

XIV. REFERENCES

- Bell, J. (1993). *Doing your research project: A guide for first-time researchers in education and social science*. Buckingham, PA: Open University Press.
- Booth, W. C. (1995). *The craft of research*. Chicago: University of Chicago.
- Cone, J. D. (1993). *Dissertations and theses from start to finish: Psychology and related fields (1st ed.)*. Washington, D. C. APA.
- Crabtree, W. L. & Miller, W. L. (Ed.). (1992). *Doing qualitative research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Ely, M. (1991). *Doing qualitative research: Circles within circles*. NY: Falmer.
- Good, C. V. (1971). *Essentials of educational research: Methodology and design (2nd ed.)*. NY: Appleton-Century-Crofts.
- La Pierre, S. D. & Zimmerman, E. (Eds.). (1997). *Research methods and methodologies for art education*. Reston, VA: NAEA.
- Mann, T. (1989). *A guide to library research methods*. NY: Oxford.
- Marshall, C. (1995). *Designing qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.