

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE

ART 6563

Studio / Thesis I

3 semester hours

II. PREREQUISITES

Department Chair Approval.

III. TEXTBOOK

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. Washington, D C: APA.

Marius, R. (1999). *A short guide to writing about history (3rd ed.)*. New York: Longman.

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is preparative to the MFA thesis and focuses on the combination of written and studio research. Students will investigate research findings and research methods in art and prepare individualized research.

V. RATIONALE

The culminating research experience for the Master of Fine Arts student is the Studio / Thesis. This research opportunity allows the graduate student to pursue focused investigation into a topic relative to their particular interests and needs in studio art. The studio / thesis combines visual and written research with the primary objective of creating a body of artwork supported by a written explication. Under the supervision of a graduate faculty member, graduate students in this course will develop a research problem and write a prospectus delineating research.

VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Describe the connection between visual and written research.
- B. Describe 3 types of studio / theses.
- C. Develop a research problem for a studio / thesis.
- D. Support a studio / research problem with an annotated bibliography.
- E. Identify the parts of a research prospectus.
- F. Write a research prospectus in the APA writing style.

VII. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:

- A. The Studio / Thesis
 1. The thesis
 2. Studio research
 3. Combining studio and 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. Writing the paper
- 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
 1. APS
 2. MLA
 3. Turabian
- F. Visual Research
 1. Defining a problem
 2. Identifying a line of investigation
 3. Connecting with the written research

VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Methods and activities for instruction will include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussion
- C. Studio Projects / Lab Setting
- D. Library Research
- E. Reading Assignments
- F. Written Assignments
- G. 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 technique, historical research, or a conceptual idea. The research problem is often phrased as a question and may have sub-problems.
- B. **Prospectus Outline.** Develop an outline for the studio / thesis.
- C. **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. Two spiral bound copies of the prospectus will be required for the course (see sample copies). Both copies will be sent to the Graduate School for approval and signature. One copy will be returned to the candidate and the other will be retained by the Department of Art. 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

D. **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.

X. EVALUATION

Requirement	Value
Research Problem Statement	10%
Prospectus Outline	10%
Written Prospectus for the Studio / Thesis	40%
Annotated References	30%
Presentation / Committee Selection & Meeting	10%

XI. LIST OF MATERIALS

XII. 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.