

Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 6563 *Studio Thesis I*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES
ART 6507 and ART 6508
- II. TEXTBOOK
American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- 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. Develop a research problem for a studio thesis.
 - B. Support a studio thesis research problem with an annotated bibliography.
 - C. Identify the parts of a research prospectus.
 - D. Write a research prospectus in the APA writing style.
 - E. Show progress on the studio component with preliminary two- or three-dimensional sketches and/or finished works of art.
- VII. COURSE TOPICS
 - 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
- C. 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
- D. APA Writing Style
- E. 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

- A. Group discussion
- B. Studio production
- C. Written assignments

IX. ASSIGNMENTS

See instructor course syllabus

X. EVALUATION

See Department of Art Syllabus Addendum for Grading Scale and Evaluation.

XI. REFERENCES

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association.*(6th ed.) Washington, DC: APA.
- 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, IL: University of Chicago.
- Cone, J. D. (1993). *Dissertations and theses from start to finish: Psychology and related fields* (1st ed.). Washington, DC: APA.
- Crabtree, W. L. & Miller, W. L. (1992). *Doing qualitative research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Ely, M. (1991). *Doing qualitative research: Circles within circles*. New York: Falmer.
- Good, C. V. (1971). *Essentials of educational research: Methodology and design* (2nd ed.). New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts.
- La Pierre, S.D. & Zimmerman, E. (Eds.). (1997). *Research methods and methodologies for art education*. Reston, VA: NAEA.
- Mann, T. (2005). *The oxford guide to library research*. NY: Oxford.
- Marshall, C. (1995). *Designing qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.