* SPRING 2015*
ARTS 695-001  THESIS RES. I

WED. 6:30-9:15PM

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Office hours: T/R. 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and by appointment

3 credit hours

Prerequisite(s): Open to Master of Fine Arts and Master of Art Education students only. Permission of chair, Department of Fine Arts.

Course Content
- This is a writing-intensive course that fosters the development of individual investigation through the writing of successive drafts ending in a thesis statement.
- M. F. A. students are expected to write a thesis statement referring to the body of visual work required for their degree. The theses and thesis statements will be evaluated by the students’ advisors and committees. A thesis project of creative work is required for the MFA degree in art and design, including a written thesis statement that is about the body of investigated work to be presented in a required exhibition. The written (MFA) thesis statement should be approximately 20 pages in length, exclusive of images. Upon completion and approval of the written thesis statement, the student must pass an oral defense of the presented work.

Recommended Readings

Readings will be determined on an individual basis, depending on students’ particular areas of creative activity. All students should refer to:

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, graduating students will have gone through a writing-intensive process about their thesis artwork, including reflection and exploration of aspects of the work that they may initially be less aware of. The process will sharpen understanding of the work’s personal, social and historic context. The writing process itself becomes a creative act, not only informed by, but also informing the thesis artwork.

Students will produce a 20-page thesis statement, including proper annotation, references, bibliography, and a minimum of eight digital photographic illustrations that will be part of the written document, properly identified. Each digital image will be labeled with the title, medium, size and date of execution of the work and the student's name.
Students will demonstrate proficiency in:
- researching sources - artists, writings, philosophies, and personal histories - that have affected the way they approach or think about your thesis work.
- contextualizing their thesis work within the art historical tradition and within their own work history
- discussing their thesis work
  o describing the subject the work is exploring
  o explaining how they arrived at the subject of exploration.
  o describing the process – materially, conceptually, spatially
  o describing how the subject was explored: material, process, attitude, construction, technique, etc.

**Deadlines (subject to confirmation)**

- **Prior to beginning of semester** First thesis draft due
- **January 30th** Second thesis draft due
- **Third week of February** Third thesis draft due
- **Second week of March** Fourth thesis draft due

**Grading Scale**

A grade of S or U is recorded.

**Class Guidelines and Expectations**

The class is a safe zone, a place and a time where every student can expect respect and care from the group. The group is involved in each member’s development and ultimate success in expressing the visual process verbally.

Students can expect the instructor to visit their studios towards the latter part of the semester and be engaged in their development and progress. They can also expect quick response to email; meetings during office hours and by appointment; and availability after every class period to discuss whatever is perceived as urgent.

Students are expected to make sure they are familiar with all class members’ work as it develops.

**Attendance**

Attendance is essential to completing the course successfully. Due to the particular nature of this class, students are allowed one absence.

**Students with Disabilities or Chronic Medical Illness**

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability - including (but not limited to) a learning disability, ADHD, a visual impairment, a hearing impairment, a mobility impairment, or a chronic medical illness, and need accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as
soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification, please tell me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first graded assignment is due.

**Plagiarism and other academic discipline matters**

- We will follow the guidelines in *The Correct Use of Borrowed Information*. For bibliography and in-text citation we will use the MLA style (see Prentice Hall). Papers have to be submitted to Turnitin. Turnitin is sensitive to capitalization and spacing.

- Infractions of academic discipline are dealt with in accordance with the student Academic Misconduct Policy which is in the Student Conduct Code in the Student Handbook online (http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf).

- Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the professor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation including papers, projects, and examinations; presenting, as one’s own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation without proper acknowledgment; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the professors involved. In addition, academic misconduct involves attempting to influence one’s academic evaluation by means other than academic achievement or merit.

**The Writing Center**

If you are not confident in your writing skills, you are encouraged to make use of The Writing Center. Expressing your thoughts well will of necessity improve the quality of your papers. The Writing Center can help you write more effectively. The center’s hours and policies can be found at http://www.winthrop.edu/wcenter.