# COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

**Academic School / Department:**     Communications and The Arts

**Programme:**     MA AVC, MA FLM and MA Communication for Social Change

***FHEQ* Level:**     7

**Course Title:**     Research Methods

**Course Code:**     AVC 7100

**Total Hours:**     200
Timetabled Hours:     39
Guided Learning Hours:     21
Independent Learning Hours:     140

**Credits:**     20 UK CATS credits
10 ECTS credits
4 US credits

**Course Description:**
Introduces students to the process of research, including the ability to work from libraries, exhibitions and institutional archives, and developing skills in visual literacy and academic writing. Students are encouraged to develop independent thought by discovering, evaluating, and making appropriate use of a wide range of approaches to research and associated academic writing. Complementing the courses on theory, this course assists students with the identification of their own interests as they move towards choosing a thesis or professional research project.

**Prerequisites:**
**MA AVC; MA FLM and MA CSC students only**

**Aims and Objectives:**
- To introduce students to the process of developing planning and conducting MA level autonomous research.
- To enable students to develop their visual literacy including sustained formal analysis
- To engage critically with both academic texts and primary sources.
- To consider the qualities of academic writing including effective arguments supporting evidence.
- To consider the ethical and safeguarding dimension of research, particularly as this applies in research dealing with human participants and community groups.
- To consider a range of different cultural approaches to research methods

- To examine and apply professional presentation skills

**Programme Outcomes:**
MA AVC: A1, A3, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, C1
MA FLM: B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
MA CSC:  B3, B4, C1, C2, C5, D4

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:
https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

**Learning Outcomes:**
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:
At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrate a comprehensive and systematic knowledge of methods required for examining art in an international setting

- Deploy sophisticated visual literacy including sustained formal analysis

- show systematic, critical engagement with texts and objects

- conduct successful and original research, including the application of appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources

- show excellent writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence demonstrate professional presentation skills including verbal visual analysis, communicated clearly to specialist and non-specialist audience

- Demonstrate understanding of the specific ethical and wellbeing challenges of conducting research in the fields of human engagement and community arts.

**Indicative Content:**
- methods for conducting library and archival research
- Methods for engaging critically with texts and objects
- visual literacy including formal analysis
- writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence
- presentation skills including verbal visual analysis

**Assessment:**
This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/

**Teaching Methodology:**
Teaching will include interactive lectures, supplemented with a range of audiovisual aids, designed to introduce students to the key concepts of professional practice. Guest speakers

and activities will contribute alternative perspectives and experience. Students will develop their critical understanding of these concepts and their practical application through a range of workshops and group and individual exercises undertaken in class and out of class. Their group and individual presentations and written work will be discussed in feedback sessions which explore responses to issues arising from professional practice. The teaching will be supplemented with individual tutorials designed to address students' personal needs.

### *Indicative Text(s):*

Cottrell, S. (March 2023) *Critical Thinking Skills: Effective Analysis, Argument and Reflection* Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan; 4th edition.

D'Alleva, A. (2021) *Methods & Theories of Art History*. 3rd edition, London: Lawrence King.

Hatt, M. & C. Klonk (2024) *Art History: A Critical Introduction to its Methods*, 1st edition, Manchester, Manchester University Press.

Kara, H. (2020) *Creative Research Methods: A Practical Guide*. 2nd edn. Bristol: Policy Press.

May, T. and Perry, B. (2022) *Social Research: Issues, Methods, and Process.* 5th edn. London: Open University Press.

Wallace, M. & A. Wray, (2023) *Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates*, (Los Angeles, California, SAGE; 4th edition.

### *Journals*
*The Journal for Artistic Research*

### *Web Sites*

See syllabus for complete reading list

### **Change Log for this CSD:**

| Nature of Change | Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB) |
|---|---|
| Updated indicative texts | Dept, Jan 23 |
| Updated learning outcomes | Dept, Jan 23 |
| Revision – annual update | May 2023 |
| Programme outcomes updated | October 2023 |
| Programme name updated | January 2024 |
| Total Hours Updated | April 2024 |
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