

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications and The Arts
Programme:	MA AVC
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Professional Practices in the Visual Arts
Course Code:	AVC 7106

Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	2
Independent Learning Hours:	140

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

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course provides students with the concepts, knowledge, skills and experience required for successful placements in professional positions in a range of international arts and cultural industries. Students will develop their own professional concept/knowledge portfolio based on case study topics and workplace scenarios that may include: engagement with current discourses related to curatorial and gallery practices, management skills, ethical working practices, as well as the social and regenerative potential of the arts. Making use of London as a second classroom, the course will involve analyses of and trips to a number of arts organizations; these include not-for-profit arts institutions as well as commercial galleries, auction houses, and art fairs. The course will also integrate a number of guest lectures from leaders who represent the diversity of the art world in London today.

Prerequisites:

MA AVC students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the specific skill sets needed within a range of professional positions in the arts and cultural industries
- To develop students' understanding of curating on a practical and theoretical level
- To familiarise students with the art world, and the operating procedures of galleries and auction houses

- To introduce students to the international art world, specifically emerging sectors.
- To engage with the current discourse on the educational and regenerative potential of that arts.
- To prepare students for professional placement within a specific sector of the art world
- To develop students' writing and presentation skills, including writing for professional contexts

Programme Outcomes:

A1, A5, B4, B5, C4, D1, D2, D4, D5

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

This is 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:

- demonstrate a critical knowledge of professional practice in the arts and creative cultural industries
- 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 audiences
- deploy the skills and experience required to work in the arts and creative cultural industries
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the scholarship surrounding professional practices in the visual arts
- Engage in network and community-forming in the creative and cultural sector

Indicative Content:

- curatorial and management skills
- the operating procedures of arts charities, the auction house, the commercial gallery and the not-for-profit arts sector
- the educational, social and regenerative potential of the arts
- arts institutions and community engagement
- cultural diversity in the arts
- arts management and administration
- the international art world and globalisation

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:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the module instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Indicative Text(s):

De Vereaux, C. (2018) *Arts and Cultural Management: Sense and Sensibilities in the State of the Field*. London: Routledge.

Fox, Alice & MacPherson. (2015) *Inclusive Arts Practice and Research: A Critical Manifesto*, Routledge.

Sommer, Doris. (2014) *The Work of Art in the World: Civic Agency and Public Humanities*, Duke University Press

Stevenson, D. (2018) *Managing Organisational Success in the Arts*. London, Routledge.

Raviola, Elena & Zackariasson. (2016), *Arts and Business: Building a Common Ground for Understanding Society*, Routledge.

Journals

Anti-Racism Resources in the Art World, (Artsy, 2020).

A Place to Start: Resources and Organizations for Fighting Racism and Supporting Justice and Equality, (MOMA, 2020)

On Curating

Engage

Tate Papers

Journal of Visual Culture – Sage Journals

Journal for Artistic Research

The Journal of Arts Management, Law & Society

Web Sites

[Click here to enter text.](#)

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)
Revision – annual update	May 2023
Total hours updated	April 2024