

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Communications and The Arts
Programme:	MA Art History and Visual Culture
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Thesis Research
Course Code:	AVC 7500

Total Hours:	400
Timetabled Hours:	0
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	400

Credits:	40 UK CATS credits
	20 ECTS credits
	8 US credits

Course Description:

For students working independently on their Masters thesis. The dissertation encourages students to study intensively a topic agreed with a supervisor, and so develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work. The course is comprised of independent research and writing, overseen by a thesis supervisor, resulting in production of a 10-12,000 word thesis. Collaborative and supportive dialogue with the supervisor and fellow 'junior research colleagues' will involve advice on the research and writing process, suggestions for resources and research directions, and comments on draft chapters of the thesis.

Prerequisites: MA Art History and Visual Culture students only

Aims and Objectives:

- For the supervisor to guide the student, as a junior research colleague, through the research, writing and production of an MA level thesis of 10-12,000 words
- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field
- To develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes. B1, B2, B4, C1, C2, C3, C5, D3

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- 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

Indicative Content:

- production of a 10-12,000 word thesis, suitably illustrated, evidencing:
- intensive autonomous study of a topic agreed with a supervisor
- primary research making a valuable contribution to the field
- a coherent argument
- sustained visual analysis
- appropriate, critical use of secondary sources
- footnotes and a bibliography complying with the Chicago Manual of Style
- satisfactory presentation and scholarly apparatus

Assessment:

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

Note: the required thesis word count is 10-12,000 words.

Teaching Methodology:

AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION

The Course will require independent research overseen by a thesis supervisor, tutorial opportunities including with specialist faculty for more specific academic guidance, including comments on draft materials, and faculty and peer review feedback at a thesis conference.

Indicative Text(s):

Bell, J. (2018). *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First Time Researchers*. 7th edn. London: McGraw-Hill Education.

Biggam, J. (2021) *Succeeding with Your Master's Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Handbook*, Fifth Edition, Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill Education

- Clark, T., Foster, L., Sloan, L. and Bryman, A. (2021) *Bryman's Social Research Methods*. 6th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- D'Alleva, A. (2021) *Methods & Theories of Art History*. 3rd edition, London: Lawrence King.
- Felix, M.S. & Smith, Ian. (2019) *A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing*, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Hatt, M. & C. Klonk (2016) *Art History: A Critical Introduction to its Methods*, 1st edition, Manchester, Manchester University Press.
- Turabian, K.L. (2018) *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Ninth Edition) Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Journals

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval by School or AB
Updated indicative texts	Dept, Jan 23
Revision – annual update	May 2023
Total hours updated	April 2024