COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Communications and the Arts

Programme: Arts and Visual Cultures

FHEQ **Level:** 6

Course Title: Senior Dissertation in Arts and Visual Cultures

Course Code: ARTS 6110

Total Hours: 320
Timetabled Hours: 22.5
Supervised Learning Hours: 45
Independent Learning Hours: 252.5

Credit 32 UK CATS credits
16 ECTS credits
8 US credits

Course Description:

Senior Dissertation in Arts and Visual Cultures is the capstone course of the major. Students produce a dissertation of between 6,000 to 8,000 words in length, on a topic relevant to the discipline. Students are guided through the various stages of the dissertation by a supervisor. Students orally present their research according to conference standards and engage in peer-feedback as they produce their final essay.

Prerequisites:

COMM 5301 Research Methods in Media and Arts and at least 70 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

- To help students develop research strategies focusing upon the development of critical thinking and reading skills, the clear articulation of a thesis/argument, and the selection of appropriate theoretical and methodological frameworks

- To help students identify a viable research project, generate a literature review, and write draft chapters, achieve the submission of a final dissertation, and make an oral presentation of their research

- To help students develop self-directed and more advanced research and writing strategies that reflect a systematic engagement with a key issue related to their specific interests in communications and media studies

- To provide an advanced media literacy framework for global citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century

- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

6AII; 6AIII; 6BII; 6BIII; 6CII, 6DI; 6DII

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are 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:

- Demonstrate the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic understanding of methodological approaches used in Arts and Visual Cultures.

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key scholars, texts and debates in the discipline of Arts and Visual Cultures, and the reflexive relationship between these and empirical practice.

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of a core problem or issue in Arts and Visual Cultures.

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of major debates in Arts and Visual Cultures, and use sophisticated disciplinary analysis that utilises knowledge from cognate fields as is appropriate.

- Demonstrate the systematic ability to gather, organise and deploy highly complex ideas, evidence and information.

- Demonstrate the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions.

- Demonstrate autonomy in taking personal responsibility for ethical and sustainable practices in the discipline and in locating their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research.

Indicative Content:

- Formulating a research proposal with ethical reflection
- Formulating a thesis that binds theoretical and empirical content together
- Producing rough draft chapters for editing and proof-reading
- Engaging with questions of theory and methodology
- Extending research sources
- Oral presentation of research

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:

Course meetings consist of a few interactive group discussions, but weekly meetings primarily revolve around individual tutorial supervision. The course is student-centered, and students are responsible for time and research self-management as well as for their own engagement with their project. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improve student approach to learning and achieve better results.

Indicative Text(s):

- Day, T. (2023) *Success in Academic Writing*. 3rd ed. London: Bloomsbury Academic Press.

- Greetham, B. (2019) *How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation.* 3rd ed. Palgrave.

- Josephson, S., Kelly, J. D. and Smith, K. (eds.) (2020) *Handbook of Visual Communication: Theory, Methods, and Media.* 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.

- Rose, G. (2012) *Visual Methodologies.* 3rd ed. London: Sage Publications.

- Ryan-Flood, R. and Gill, R. (eds.) (2010) *Secrecy and Silence in the Research Process: Feminist Reflections.* New York: Routledge.

- Seale, C. (ed.) (2018) *Researching Society and Culture*. 4th Edition. London: Sage.

- Stokes, J. (2013) *How to Do Media and Cultural Studies.* London: Routledge.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition document	November 2024	