COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: MA in Art History and Visual Culture

Level: 7

Course Title: Research Methods

Course Code: AVC 7100

Course Leader: Dr Nicola Mann

Student Engagement Hours: 200
Seminars: 39
Tutorials: 6
Independent / Guided Learning : 155

Semester: FALL

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 independence of thought by discovering, evaluating and making appropriate use of a wide range of approaches to research and writing. Complimenting the courses on theory, this course assists students with the identification of their own interests as they move towards choosing a thesis topic.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: MA Art History and Visual Culture students only

Aims and Objectives:
- To introduce students to the process of conducting MA level autonomous research
- To enable students to develop their visual literacy including sustained formal analysis
- To engage critically with texts and objects
- To consider the qualities of academic writing including effective arguments supported by evidence
- To examine and apply professional presentation skills

Programme Outcomes:
At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

B1, B2, B3 B4, B5

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.
This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

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
- demonstrate professional presentation skills including verbal visual analysis, communicated clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Indicative Content:
- methods for conducting library and archival research
- methods for engaging critically with texts
- methods for engaging critically with 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 Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal Number of Items (including final exam)*	Total assessment
LEVEL 7	R7000/UK MA	2-3	5000-7000 words

1. Review (1000-1500 words)   30%   due Week 4
2. Visual Ethnography Exercise (1000-1500 words)   30%   due Week 7
3. Interview Exercise (notes or sound recording)   20%   due Week 11
4. Oral presentation   20%   due Week 12

Teaching Methodology:

SEMINARS
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 course 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.

Bibliography:

Barnet, S. *A Short Guide to Writing About Art* (Fifth Edition) (New York: Longman, 1997).

D'Alleva, A. *How to Write Art History.* (London: Lawrence King, 2006).

Margolis, E. and L. Pauwels (eds) *The Sage Handbook of Visual Research Methods.* (London: Sage, 2011).

Rose, G. *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials* (Thousand Oaks, California, 2007).

Marita Sturken and Lisa Cartwright, *Practices of Looking: an Introduction to Visual Culture*, Second Edition, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Turabian, K.L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Sixth Edition) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996[1937]).

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry