

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

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| Academic School/Department: | Communications, Arts and Social Sciences |
| Programme: | MA in Visual Arts Management and Curating |
| Level: | 7 |
| Course Title: | Research Methods |
| Course Code: | VAM 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. This course assists students with the identification of their own interests as they move towards choosing a topic for the professional research project.

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:

- B1 deploy sophisticated visual literacy including formal analysis
- B2 show systematic, critical engagement with texts and objects
- B3 conduct successful and original research, including the application of appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources
- B4 show excellent writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence
- B5 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 | R500/UK MA | 2-3 | 5000-7000 words |

Assessed Coursework

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| 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:

