COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications & The Arts

Programme: MA in Art History and Visual Culture

Level: 7

Course Title: Thesis Research

Course Code: AVC 7500

Student Engagement Hours: 400^1
Independent / Guided Learning: 400

Semester: SUMMER

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

^{1} *Please see the credit hour policy for non-traditional courses. Range of independent hours must fall within the range of 45-60 hours per credit.*

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.

Pre-requisites: 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, B3, B4

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

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 are located at https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies.

Teaching Methodology:

AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION
The module 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.

Bibliography:
Barnet, S. *A Short Guide to Writing About Art* (Fifth Edition) (New York: Longman, 1997).
Rountree, K. Writing *by Degrees: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses and Research Papers*. (Auckland:
        Longman Paul, 1996).
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