

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications & The Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	MA in Visual Arts Management and Curating
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	Research Methods
<b>Course Code:</b>	VAM 7100
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	200
Seminars:	39
Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
<b>Semester:</b>	FALL
<b>Credits:</b>	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:**

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 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:**

- 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 Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies>.

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**

- |  |     |             |
|--|-----|-------------|
| 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:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry