

ART HISTORY – THESIS GUIDELINES

Description

The thesis represents an opportunity for each student to conduct an in-depth exploration of a topic chosen by the student (perhaps in conjunction with the instructor), and to write a formal paper presenting her research and interpretation. Each student also will present her topic orally to the art faculty and invited guests during graduation weekend.

Goals

The goal of the Art History thesis is to allow each student to experience the unparalleled joy, fear, frustration, creativity, and intellectual stimulation that is part of being an active art historian. In addition to the critical and analytic thinking and writing skills, as well as research tools developed in prior art history classes, the thesis will allow you the intellectual freedom to focus intensively for an entire semester on a single topic. The desired goal is to set you aflame with the intellectual need to probe, analyze, write and revise again and again in order to understand and convey your ideas about art to an audience.

Timeline

First and Second Semesters of Junior Year:

- Be enrolled in upper level art history courses that require research papers of more than 8 pages
- Learn how to function in a library using art historical and humanities databases.
- Learn how to document sources using proper bibliographic and footnotes citation form.
- Possibly develop an area of interest (or topic even) that you may return to as a senior.

First Semester, Senior Year:

- Register for a 1 credit thesis research credit. A "z" grade will be given. During this semester you are expected to select and begin research on a thesis topic. At the end of the semester you are expected to produce an annotated bibliography and a 5-10 page paper describing your topic and an outline that breaks your topic down into projected chapters or section topics. Each projected chapter or section should include a short description of its contents, including works of art to be discussed.

Second Semester, Senior Year

- Register for 2 credits of thesis. During this semester you will finish writing the thesis begun and outlined during the first semester.
- Finished thesis will adhere to format agreed upon with instructor and will include footnotes, bibliography and illustrations of works discussed.
- Oral Presentation of Research will be given to the Art Faculty and invited guests before or on graduation weekend (date determined by advisor). The format of presentation will be determined by the advisor.

Grading

In general, the grading will be as follows:

- 10 page paper: nothing higher than a letter grade D.
- 15 page paper: nothing higher than a letter grade C.
- 20 page paper: nothing higher than a letter grade B.
- 20+ pages: will merit the consideration of the letter grade A.