

# DEPARTMENT OF ART - THESIS GUIDELINES

An Honors Thesis or Teaching Fellows Thesis completed for the Art Department may take many formats, reflecting the various concentrations in the department as well as the personal interests of the student.

## I. Art Education Concentration

The student may complete a research paper or complete a body of artistic works based on investigation of media or processes suitable for classroom use in the schools. The research paper may be historical or may involve a study based on a hypothesis related to teaching practices or methodology. A minimum of four copies of the thesis must be provided: 1 for the library, 1 for thesis director, 1 for department and 1 for the student.

### **A. Historical Research – See Art History guidelines**

#### Research Study

Timeline and Components: This timeline is designed to have the research and writing complete before the beginning of the student teaching semester:

#### 1. First semester of the junior year:

- Identify thesis advisor and begin discussion of topic.
- Review art thesis written by other students to become familiar with content, style and format.

#### 2. Second semester of junior year:

- Register for 1 hour thesis credit. A "z" grade will be given at the end of the semester.
- Define hypotheses, complete literature survey, begin annotated bibliography, outline procedure to be used to test hypothesis. Work with both thesis advisor and cooperating public school teacher/s while developing the testing procedure. Discuss test design with appropriate faculty in other disciplines at Meredith (psychology for statistics, education, etc.).

#### 3. Second semester, senior year:

- Register for 2 hours thesis credit
- Complete testing procedure
- Analyze data
- Write introduction, results, discussion, conclusion, complete bibliography, generate necessary tables, graphs, illustrations, write abstract.

The Teaching Fellows Thesis written by Jennifer Cockrell is a good example of this type of thesis.

4. The student will make a public presentation of the work at a time and venue scheduled in consultation with the thesis director and department head.

**B. Media or Process** The appropriate number of pieces to be completed will be determined on an individual basis due to the tremendous variability in time needed to create different forms of art.

1. First semester, junior year:

- Identify thesis advisor and begin ongoing discussions of topic, if possible.

2. Second semester, junior year:

- Thesis adviser must be identified, area of study must be selected. Thesis focus should be clearly defined. This may be done in conjunction with junior portfolio review. Write a two page proposal outlining the scope of the project. This should be reviewed by the thesis advisor, senior exhibit director, and department head.

3. First semester, senior year:

- Register for three hours credit
- Register for appropriate studio classes
- Write:
  - Abstract
  - Statement of the problem
  - Review of artistic influences/sources
  - Analysis of work
  - Areas for further study
  - Conclusion
  - Bibliography
  - Appendices (optional)
- Visual documentation: Photos, slides, scanned and printed, or high quality color xerographic images should be included in the text.
  
- In most cases completion will be carried over to the first half of the second semester to allow additional time to complete the studio work. If this is the case, a "z" grade will be given at the end of the first semester.

4. Second semester, senior year

- the student will exhibit the work
- the student will make a public presentation of the work at a time and venue selected in consultation with the thesis director and department head.

## **II. Studio Art**

Same as Media and Processes for Art Education (I.B. above)

## **III. Graphic Design**

Same as Media and Processes for Art Education (I.B. above)