

ART 492
Senior Research Project in Art History

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Scheduled Meeting time: Thursdays 2:00-4:30

Catalogue Description: Produce a detailed, advanced scholarly research paper and make a public presentation on an art historical topic agreed to by the professor(s).

Prereq: at least 15 cr. completed in 300-level or higher Art History courses.

Art 492 is designed to help advanced students with a serious interest in Art History develop the kinds of research and other professional skills that will help get them into graduate school, and to prosper once they get there. The majority of the class, in both time and effort, will be focused on a 20-25-page research paper of high quality, with complete scholarly apparatus. Throughout the semester we will meet periodically as a group to develop and discuss essential skills related to the research project, but for most of the semester you will meet weekly with the professor for a progress report and whatever tutorial is required as the research and writing develop. The format for the paper will be laid out in detail. One feature of this class is the fact that it tries to recreate the kinds of challenges that students will face in graduate school and in professional scholarly careers, one of which will be strict adherence to physical guidelines. The text cannot exceed 25 pages, and will have to be revised and re-edited until it conforms. Everything you hand in must be printed in Times New Roman 12 point in all cases, printed on one side of the sheets with standard half-inch margins.

On Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, each student will make a formal public presentation of his or her work, which will be our Art Historical equivalent of the Art 491 Senior Gallery Show or Portfolio Show. The format is designed to give the student practice in a public presentation of scholarly nature, where the conference paper is read verbatim from a printed text. The presentation will mimic typical experience for professional papers in that it must conform to the available time: at least 15 minutes (as happens at professional conferences, the paper will be interrupted if it hasn't ended by then). The evaluation of the student's performance will consist mostly of the content of the paper, but will also include the quality of its presentation (images, PowerPoint presentation, etc.). The group will meet the last full week of classes on

December 14 to discuss and critique the public presentations.

Grades will be dropped appropriately for late assignments.

Semester Schedule:

Week 1 9/8:

Introduction to the course.

Week 2 9/15: *Bring your Chicago Style Handbook to class.*

Meet to discuss ideas for your paper topic and research methods using the UWSP library, databases, and interlibrary loan.

Week 3 9/22: *Bring your Chicago Style Handbook to class.*

Initial bibliography due. The bibliography should conform to Chicago Style standards.

Discuss use of PowerPoint for art historical presentations and how to properly cite your sources in footnotes and illustrations to avoid plagiarism.

Week 4 9/29:

Outline for the whole paper due.

At our Week 4 meeting you'll present your topic to the class. Present your outline and explain your plans for doing the research and organizing your topic into a coherent paper.

Weeks 5-9 10/6 through 11/03:

Independent research and writing. Write drafts of the paper. Report to the professor for a progress report, even if the report is "I haven't done anything this week" (but don't let that be true...).

Week 9 11/03:

First draft of the paper due.

Please submit electronic copies using the D2L dropbox and hard copies to the professor. All paper submissions should include footnotes, a bibliography, and illustrations with properly cited captions. For those students writing on Western topics, first drafts will be reviewed by Dr. Larry Ball.

Meet as a class briefly to discuss the format of the public presentation so you can start preparing the paper and short abstract for the symposium program.

The symposium is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, December 10. This is the annual Senior Symposium in Art History, our equivalent to the Graphic Design Art 491 Portfolio Show and the 2D & 3D Art 491 Senior Gallery Show. Students will present their research in the format of a professional conference paper. This also works just like a conference in that it takes place as scheduled no matter what: there is no such thing as an “incomplete” for this exercise.

Weeks 10-11 11/10-11/17:

Continue revising and editing your long paper, as well as your formal public presentation paper and abstract.

Week 12 11/23 (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving break):

Final rewrite of the paper and final abstract for publication in the symposium program due.

Week 13 12/1: Practice run of public presentations for critique and discussion. Come to class prepared to give a timed presentation of your research.

Week 14 12/8:

Practice run of public presentations.

Week 14 12/10: Public Symposium 9:00AM-12:00PM, in NFAC 221

Week 15 12/15:

We will meet to critique and discuss the Senior Symposium conference papers. Since we have a big class, this session might run over-time. Please make the necessary accommodations.

Week 16 Final Exam Week: If your research paper still needed another rewrite after the Week 12 deadline, the final revised paper is due by during our designated final exam slot: **Monday, December 19 at 12:30PM.**

General Grading Criteria (used for all assignments):

A: Superior Work. Total mastery. Demonstrated detailed command of subject matter, including historical interpretation, cultural and historical issues appropriate to the

research topic, the artists' philosophies, all explained in detail and thoughtfully related to imagery and style. Obviously cares about the material and developed credibly argued analysis of it (etc. etc.). Creatively and lucidly expressed, using appropriate concepts and terms properly, and in flawless and consistent scholarly format. Professional-caliber public presentation skills.

B: Good Work. Demonstrated a solid command of the cultural context issues, artists' philosophies, etc., as well as imagery and style, explained in good detail, clearly expressed, in flawless, consistent scholarly format. Nothing important left out. Use of proper art terms where appropriate. A clear, orderly development of argument and presentation of data. Acceptable public presentation skills.

C: Competent Work. Competence is a passing grade for college work, but not an acceptable standard professionally. Student will be advised accordingly.

F: Less than Competent work: Did not successfully rise to the challenges of this class, either at a professional or undergraduate level. The academic standards in Art 492 are set by the professional field of Art History nationwide, which is why the grade of D is not possible in this course: it represents a level of attainment that is simply unacceptable. Plagiarism earns an F in this class too.