

ART 492
Senior Research Project in Art History

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Scheduled Meeting time: T/Th 11:00-12:15

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 preparing a 10-page research paper of high quality, with complete scholarly apparatus to be presented at the Senior Art History Symposium in December. Throughout the semester we will meet as a group to develop and discuss essential skills related to the research project. Once research has begun, you will also meet at least once a week with your faculty advisor from this class (Courtney for Asian Topics, Larry for Western: anything else we'll work out).

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 10 pages, and will have to be revised and re-edited until it conforms. During your weekly meetings, Courtney or Larry will guide you through this, of course. Everything you hand in must be Word Documents formatted in Times New Roman 12 point with standard one-inch margins. If your advisor requires hard-copy, it must be printed on one side of the sheets.

Senior Symposium

On Saturday, December 8 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, each student will make a formal public presentation of his or her work at the Senior Art History Symposium, which is the 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 to discuss and critique the public presentations.

Grades will be dropped appropriately for late assignments.

Text Rental Books:

The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed.

A Short Guide to Writing about Art by Sylvan Barnet

Semester Schedule:

Week 1 9/4-9/6:

Introduction to the course. Writing about art.

Week 2 9/11-9/13:

9/11 Discuss and brainstorm ideas for your paper topic with the class and your faculty advisor. Photoshop and Powerpoint tutorials.

9/13 Meet with Professor Liao 9/13 in ALB 103A to discuss research methods using the UWSP library, databases, and interlibrary loan.

Week 3 9/18-9/20:

Initial bibliography due 9/18. The bibliography should conform to Chicago Style standards and consist of at least 10 books and 5 scholarly journal citations, if not more. Please submit your bibliography to the appropriate D2L dropbox by 5PM on 9/18.

Start reading your most prominent sources.

Start working on the outline and thesis for your paper.

Week 4 9/25-9/27:

Outline and thesis for the whole paper due 9/25.

At our Week 4 meetings 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.

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

Weeks 5 through 8 10/2-10/25:

Independent research and writing. Write drafts of the paper. Meet with your course advisor at least once a week, more than that if one of your meetings consists of "I didn't achieve anything since we met last." Periodically give a progress report to the class.

Week 9 10/30-11/01:

First draft of the paper due 10/30. In class peer editing sessions. Please bring at least three copies of your draft to class.

Please also submit electronic copies using the D2L dropbox and a hard copy to the course advisor for your topic. All paper submissions should include footnotes, a bibliography, and illustrations with properly cited captions.

Week 10 11/6-11/8

Start to prepare short paper abstracts.

Continue revising and editing your paper.

Week 11 11/13-11/15:

Present and critique draft abstracts.

Week 12 11/20:

Final rewrite of the paper and final abstract for publication in the symposium program due. Submit hard copies to the professors and please also submit Word documents to the D2L dropbox.

Week 13 11/27-11/29:

Practice run of public presentations for critique and discussion. Come to class prepared to give a timed presentation of your research.

Week 14 12/4-12/6:

Practice run of public presentations.

12/8: Public Symposium 9:00AM-12:00PM, in NFAC 221

The symposium is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, December 8 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. 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.

Week 15 12/11-12/13:

We will meet to critique and discuss the Senior Symposium conference papers. Since we have a big class, critiques may run into final exam week.

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: **12/18/2018 from 2:45-4:45PM.**

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.