Visual Arts Studio/Visual Arts History 9500A
Fall 2018

Master's Research Methods and Practices
Wednesdays, 2:30-5:30
Visual Arts Building, room 247

Professor John G. Hatch
Office: VAC 200C
Hours: Monday and Wednesdays. 13:30-14:30, or by appointment
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Description: The Master's seminar in research methods is the foundational course for the MFA in studio and the MA in art history. The course is an integrated context for reading, analysis of art works, and engagement with relevant practices by studio and art history students, in a shared context. It combines a theoretical component involving a survey of some key movements in contemporary critical theory with a methods component focusing respectively on the development of tools for art making, related writing, and the use of professional skills by artists; and on art historical research methods and the development of critical writing skills, and the use of professional tools by art historians.

Outcomes: The point of this course is to learn how to research, read, talk, and write about art from multiple vantage points, whether as an artist, historian, critic, curator, and how to address different audiences such as gallery goers, artists, students, or granting boards. In the end, it is hoped that you'll have a better understanding of the requirements and methods of the visual arts, some of the theoretical concerns, and why you are continuing to study all this stuff.

Assignments & Evaluation:
10% - Grant writing reviewed by faculty panel.
15% - MFA/work presentation (exhibition proposal); MA/research presentation (conference proposal)
15% - Literature review on your art/research topic.
15% - MFA/artist's statement; MA/MRP proposal.
15% - MFA/produce a work in response to an historical piece; MA/analyze the work and contextualize it.
15% - How to explain an art work or your art to an 8-year old.
15% - Text analysis, presentation and discussion.

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Materials:
All of the texts for this course are available on the OWL course website.

Warnings:
Student Responsibilities and Preparations:
Students are expected to attend all classes punctually and participate in all class discussions and critiques. Students are required to come to all classes with the necessary materials to participate that day.

Attendance:
Attendance and punctuality are mandatory.

Extensions and Late Penalties:
Extensions will be granted in exceptional circumstances and typically only in cases of illness, bereavement or for other compassionate reasons. Late assignments not accompanied by official documentation will receive a penalty of 2% per day. If you suspect that you will be unable to meet a deadline, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Submission of Work:
Only electronic copies of written assignments will be accepted.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism:
All forms of plagiarism are serious academic offenses and are subject to strict penalties. All work must be your own, and when you rely on the research of others you must cite the provenance of the material in notes and bibliographies. When citing sources you must use the Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities format. Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course is plagiarism. When in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, consult with your professors and/or the Writing Centre AHEAD of the submission date. Plagiarism, which may be defined as "The act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own," will not be tolerated. (Citation excerpted from Black's Law Dictionary, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). (Refer to http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg113.html or the 2013/2014 Western Academic.

Respect:
Any contravention of the UWO Code of Student Conduct or Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy will not be tolerated. Every effort will be made to foster and maintain a respectful environment.

OWL – Sakai:
Resources including most course readings will be posted to OWL - Sakai. For copyright reasons these postings might be of short duration. If you wish to share resources with the

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class, consult with me and I will make arrangements so that the documents can be posted to Sakai, or distributed by other means.

Writing Centre: 217 UCC:
The Writing Centre is part of the Effective Writing program at western and is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. It offers instruction on all aspects of writing and is not merely for students who have difficulty with writing. The one-on-one tutoring sessions can be very helpful in improving writing and editorial skills.

Evaluation:
The following grading standards are quoted from the department webpage:
http://www.uwo.ca/visarts/grad/downloads/Graduate_Grading_Standards.pdf

90-100% Work of **excellent** quality
Approaching if not already at professional standards. Thoroughly and creatively engaged at a high level of artistic and/or written production; very high standards and sophistication evidenced in all areas of production

86-89% Work of **very good** quality
Demonstrably evolved beyond expected standards of critical, theoretical and creative engagement in artistic and/or written production

80-85% Work of **good** quality
Shows competence in artistic and/or written production but could be improved in one or more ways

78-79% Work of **acceptable** quality
Needs substantial improvement in one or more areas

70-77% Work of **passable** quality *(a warning regarding removal of funding)*
Shows sufficient ability and effort to allow the student to pass the course, but is seriously deficient with respect to critical, theoretical or practical engagement in artistic and/or written production

<69% Work of **unacceptable** quality
Removal from program

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