

## **ARTS 6990-60 GRADUATE THESIS (II)**

**Spring 2018 Tuesday 6:00-10:30 PM Power Art 122 & Nomadic**

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**Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 5:00-6:00 at Power Art & by appointment**

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**Snow/emergency school cancellation: 973-720-2475 or WPU home page**

### **Course Objectives**

#### **Description:**

Independent research for the visual arts thesis body of work and the written thesis. The choices of media, the balance of written and creative work and the manner of presentation must have the prior approval by the Graduate Review Committee as prescribed in the Graduate Survey meeting the preceding semester.

#### **Objectives:**

Assist the development and articulation of a plan for the creation a written corollary statement and presentation of a cohesive body of work and that challenges the student to the professional level of artistic accomplishment.

Facilitate the articulation and implementation of the plan for the creation of a written corollary statement and presentation of a cohesive body of work.

Guide the student in the development of an understanding about the relationship of the work created to their personal aesthetic evolution and to contemporary and historical aesthetics, critical theory and contemporary conceptual and studio practices.

Mentor the development and articulation of student's written corollary and in presentation of their project in an appropriate venue.

### **Student learning outcomes from the Department Course Outline**

The student will develop and articulate a plan for the creation and presentation of a cohesive body of work that challenges the student to the professional level of aesthetic and conceptual accomplishment.

The student will implement the plan for the creation and presentation of a cohesive body of work.

The student will develop and articulate an understanding about the relationship of the work created to their personal aesthetic evolution, conceptual and formal development, and artistic practices.

The student will develop their ability to articulate and produce a written corollary statement that shows a comprehension of the relationship of their personal work to contemporary art, critical and aesthetic theory and a variety of historical cultures.

The student will gain experience in the creation of a presentation of their work in a venue or setting appropriate to the nature of the work.

### **Suggested readings and other materials for study**

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Modern Language Association of America, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2009.

Turabian, Kate L., *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, University Of Chicago Press, 2007. [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)

Booth, Wayne C., *The Craft of Research*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago Guides, 2008.

West, Anne, *Mapping the Intelligence of the Artwork*, Moth Press, Maine College of Art, 2011. <https://www.meca.edu/uploads/files/mapconversation.pdf>

Battenfield, Jackie. *The Artist's Guide to Survival*, Da Capo Press, 2009.

Hyde, Lewis, *The Gift: Creativity and the Artist in the Modern World*, Vintage, 2007. <http://newsgrist.typepad.com/files/hyde-the-gift-creativity-and-the-artist-in-the-modern-world-2007.pdf>

A suggested reading list will be distributed to students at the beginning of the semester dependent upon the particular nature and content of the individual thesis project

### **Topical outline of the course content**

- development and articulation of a plan for the creation and presentation of a cohesive body of work
- timeline for implementation of the plan
- the outline the written corollary
- research and writing about the relationship of the work created to personal aesthetic evolution
- research and writing about the relationship of the work to contemporary art, critical and aesthetic theory and a variety of historical cultures
- bibliography, MLS, technical aspects of the corollary
- first draft due date, second draft due date, third draft due to committee, final due to committee
- advise the student on presentation of their project
- visual project and written corollary presentation to committee

### **Teaching methods**

Tutorial and group breakout sessions, short writing assignments in preparation for outlining and writing the first draft of the written thesis.

### **Course expectations**

Student must complete in a timely fashion all reading assignments, outlines, plans and timelines for submission of work. Regular attendance at tutorial sessions required. Written corollary drafts completed at a professionally acceptable level, project work approved on a regular basis with studio project coordinator.

### **Grading policy, percentages and methods for assessing student performance**

Grading will be based on the degree of ongoing participation and the quality of the work produced relative to the content expectations stated above.

***The Thesis Project*** is a body of work created specifically for thesis under the supervision of a thesis advisor and is not a summary of earlier work. *The Thesis Project* will be accompanied by a written corollary document. The choice of medium, the balance of written and creative work, and the manner of presentation must have the prior approval by your Graduate Review Committee. The Graduate Review Committee will base the final awarding of the MFA Degree on the evaluation and acceptance of the final thesis project, the written corollary, the thesis presentation and the required documentation of the project. **Source: WPUNJ Graduate Catalogue**

**COURSE CONTENT** (This schedule is not set in stone – it will be modified, depending on our pace and circumstances.) **Thesis II** students' content is individually tailored to the student's Thesis Timeline.

**Jan.23:** Introductions and establishing a schedule of individualized studio visits/or digital presentations of work and group critiques; tailoring individual student research, bibliographies and writing. One of the goals of the Thesis course is to **encourage the use of writing as an arena for the development of thought through a process of clarification of ideas.**

**Jan. 30:** Critiques of thesis-related work in individual studios. Making sure everyone has a time-line from the date of their Thesis installation to the present moment. Ask for logistical or technical help as your studio work progresses.

**Feb. 6:** Critiques of thesis-related work in individual studios. Make sure you make dates with your Thesis Committee when you need to review your Thesis work in order to move forward. Do you want to invite guest artists to participate in critiques? If yes, LMK.

**Feb 13:** Not required, but students are invited to the Opening Reception of Leslie Dill's solo exhibition, "Wilderness: Words are where what I catch is me." Opening at Nohra Haime Gallery, 500 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Chelsea. "Brooklyn-based artist **Lesley Dill's** work reflects the poetry, prose, and declarations of early New England figures such as **John Brown, Jonathan Edwards, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Anne Hutchinson, Mary Rowlandson, Edward Taylor, Sojourner Truth, and Walt Whitman.** The collection also includes **Emily Dickinson**, whose poetry initially triggered Dill's assimilation of text into her art." Don't sweat it if you have to be in your studio working on your Thesis project.

**Feb. 20:** Critiques of thesis-related work. Practice presenting your work and your main Thesis themes, approaches, studio practices in about 10 minutes, tops! Be concise and to the point.

**Feb. 27:** Critiques of thesis-related work. Perhaps time to go to the Shepherd and the Knucklehead to chill.

**March 6:** Serious practice time to determine your installation strategies and to plan in more precise detail logistics and technical issues. Refer to your Timeline! Where are you?

**March 13: Spring Break!!!**

**March 20:** Who has a Thesis Opening date around this time? Plan, plan, plan, and ask for Help!

**March 27:** Critiques and reviews.

**April 3:** Critiques and reviews. Help with written thesis outlines and writing the Written Thesis.

**April 10:** Critiques and reviews. Help with written thesis outlines and writing the Written Thesis.

**April 24:** Critiques and reviews. Individualized help with Thesis details and Timelines if you plan to work over the summer.

**May 1:** Help with written thesis outlines and writing the Written Thesis. Time to celebrate at the Shepherd and Knucklehead. Plan and Resist!