ARTS 490 Senior Concentration Thesis

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ARTS 490 | SENIOR CONCENTRATION THESIS

Readings to be discussed and assigned based on Student needs and interests.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
ARTS 490: Senior Concentration (6 credit hours) is a culmination of the student’s investigation of their own particular field of study. It is an intense, in-depth study of a particular area agreed upon by both student and professor. A “thesis” presentation of the student’s final body of work will be exhibited in the Xavier University Art Gallery. A written thesis paper with documentation of the exhibition is also required. I would like to emphasize that the paper will be worth half of the student’s final grade for the course. Do not underestimate the written portion. 3 credits will be weighed in reference to the exhibition/work and 3 credits to the paper.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
○ To work independently on a predetermined body of work.

○ To learn preparation procedures for public exhibition.

○ To become competent in the management of an Artist’s studio.

○ To formulate a written thesis paper about the body of work produced throughout the semester which exemplifies clarity of thought, concise and well worked writing, and a strong understanding of the content, context, philosophies, and influences present in the work.

○ The student will make an increased effort to examine the motivations, processes, and content of their artwork through a concentration on readings, writing, and continued discussions with the Thesis advisor. You should understand and be able to talk about all aspects of the work. This will culminate in the written paper and in an oral presentation and critique with the faculty.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that each student obtain a student membership to the Cincinnati Art Museum. The student cost is $25. Although admission to the museum is now free, membership provides access to the museum library which is an important art and video resource.
PROCEDURES

○ PROPOSAL:
Students are expected to turn in a written thesis proposal the first week of class, outlining the philosophical and technical details of the body of work.

○ CRITIQUES:
Students are expected to be prepared for a minimum of six (6) designated critiques on the dates listed on the following page. These critiques are designated to discuss the progression of the thesis work and the progression of the paper. The number of pieces for each critique will be predetermined by student and professor in accordance with the proposal. If the student is unprepared or misses a critique, a grade of “0” will be given. If needed, weekly critiques will take place.

○ PAPER:
The thesis paper is to be written in the following format. The Final Draft must be turned in (along with the binder) before a final grade is submitted.

I. Philosophy/Content Section [8-9 pages]
Include a thorough discussion of the concept driving the work, your creative motivations, any relevant influences (past and present), and how you believe your work relates to our current art historical moment (basically, discuss what makes your work unique).

II. Technical Section [1-2 pages]
Explain the technical aspects of your work processes any other relevant processes.

III. Corollary Section: Bibliography, Plates Section, & Documentation to be included at the end of your paper.
1] Include a Bibliography citing your sources. [1 page]
2] Include a CD of your work [and/or 20 slides] with typed slide list including: Title, Date, Size, Medium of the work and any other relevant information.
3] Include 3-4 sample images printed out on 8.5’’x11’’ paper as plates or examples of the work in the show.
4] Include Thesis show documentation, gallery shots, invitation card, etc.

[Mechanical requirements]
Times New Roman, 12pt type, double spaced, 1” margins, Title page.
Design students will be creating a magazine-style layout utilizing all the research and process elements. In this way design students will have an additional piece in their portfolio to accompany their actual thesis work.

○ STUDIO:
As stated in the Course Objectives, becoming competent in the management of a Studio is an integral part of the learning process of becoming a successful artist. Thesis concentration students are encouraged to participate in all aspects of studio maintenance and management, and to take an initiative in being a leader in this process. This includes assisting with materials management, facilities management, fielding student questions as appropriate and other aspects to be discussed. A spirit of cooperation throughout the semester is expected, and will affect the final grade.

○ BINDER:
All materials should then be compiled, organized, and presented in an orderly and timely manner to the Art Department to keep in their files. Binders will be due on the last day of Finals. Additionally, if binders are lacking in any of the necessary elements the final grade will be affected.
BE PREPARED FOR SIX (6) CRITIQUES (OR MORE) TO DISCUSS THE WORK IN PROGRESS AND THE PAPER IN PROGRESS ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS: (to be set by Instructor & Student)

Crit #1:

Crit #2:

**ROUGH DRAFT DUE:

Crit #3:

Crit #4:

Crit #5:

Crit #6:

BEGIN INSTALLATION OF THESIS EXHIBITION:

OPENING RECEPTION:

Note: The right to add to or delete from this syllabus is reserved by Professor Gibson.
# Thesis Exhibition Evaluation Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rating Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation and Hanging</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craftsmanship of the Work</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting All Deadlines</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity/ Idea Is Unique</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsiveness</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Idea</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Total:**

**Comments:**

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**NAME/DATE:**

**Thesis Show Date:**

**Course:**

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# Thesis Paper/Binder Evaluation Form

**Name/Date:**

**Course:**

### Paper Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the Work:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarity of Writing:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Sources:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization of Content:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of the Process:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grammar:**

| Does it Engage the Reader?: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

**Days Late [Subtract 10 Points for Each Day]:**

### Binder Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist Statement</th>
<th>CD of Work</th>
<th>Printed Samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Form</td>
<td>Slide List</td>
<td>Invitation Card</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis Proposal:**

| **Total:** |

**Comments:**

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