

ARTH 79900

Thesis Research

Art History Program, Department of Art & Art History

Hunter College, City University of New York

Thesis description and course content:

The MA thesis in art history represents the final step in the fulfillment of the degree at Hunter. The thesis is a two-semester process, for a total of 6 credits, and consists of two courses in sequence: ARTH 79900 and ARTH 80000.

The thesis demonstrates original thinking based on solid research including primary and secondary sources. Primary-source research may involve examining archival material such as an artist's personal papers and correspondence, reading contemporary sources, and conducting site visits as well as interviews. Secondary-source research may include but is not limited to an analysis of current and historical literature. The thesis demonstrates the student's ability to gather, evaluate, and present material in a critical and scholarly manner. The thesis-topic can derive from prior work in a required course, such as Research Methods, or from another upper-level seminar, or from a course of independent study. The topic must be of sufficient originality to merit extended study, and not be simply a recapitulation of existing scholarly work. The thesis is not an expanded term paper but rather a carefully structured, multi-chapter exploration of a significant topic. It is approximately 50-75 double-spaced pages in length and exhibit a full scholarly textual apparatus: footnotes, bibliography, illustrations, and other relevant documentation (the finished thesis will be a maximum of 100 double-spaced pages, including notes and bibliography but excluding images). It is intended to prepare students for further study on the doctoral level, and/or to equip them with the skills necessary for a professional career in art history.

In ARTH 79900, the first in a two-course series (the second of which is **ARTH 80000 Thesis Writing**), the student will, in collaboration with the advisor, define a topic, structure an argument, and begin researching and writing the thesis. In order to receive course credit, the student must submit, by the end of the semester, an outline (including abstract and chapter summaries) and a draft of one chapter.

Thesis funding for research-related travel may be available. Students are encouraged to meet with the graduate advisor for further details.

Suggested schedule:

Weeks 1-4: The student will work with their advisor to develop a bibliography and topic.

Weeks 5-8: The student will write the outline, which will include an abstract and chapter summaries, a description of the scope of the project, the justification for the project in the context of existing literature, and the argument.

Weeks 9-15: The student will write a chapter of the thesis.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- devise a thesis topic relevant to the field of Art History's current literature and theory
- develop a bibliography of appropriate scope and depth
- plan and execute primary and secondary research
- outline a plan for writing the entire MA thesis
- write a 20-page chapter of the MA thesis

Requirements and methods of evaluation:

The student is required to submit an annotated outline of the subject and research involved (which will include an abstract of 250 words maximum), a literature review, and the list of primary archival sources and locations. A single chapter that proves the student's command of material for one section of the thesis (this chapter can either be an introductory chapter or a chapter where the student is ready to engage with the research done). Their performance will be evaluated on the quality of these documents. The course will not be graded A-F basis, but instead as credit or no credit.

There are no standard readings for this course. Students and their faculty advisor will devise an appropriate bibliography from which readings will be drawn.

Academic Integrity Statement: "Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures."

ADA Statement: "In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation.

For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4857 /or TTY (212) 650-3230.”

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct: In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

- b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>