

ARTH 80000

Thesis Writing

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. 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 80000, the second in a two-course series (the first of which **ARTH79900 is Thesis Research**), will complete the writing of the MA thesis and submit it to the first and second readers. Over the course of this class, each student works individually with his/her primary advisor towards the completion of polished, submission-ready thesis chapters, which involves the deployment of primary and secondary research, the analysis of objects of visual and material culture, the crafting and polishing of convincing argumentation, and the editing and polishing of language at the sentence, paragraph, and thesis-level. The student will only receive credit for ARTH 80000 upon successful completion and submission of the thesis.

Schedule:

Weeks 1-4: The student will work with their advisors to develop a chapter-by-chapter structure for the thesis.

Weeks 5-8: The student will complete all writing of the remaining chapters of the thesis, which will include drafting, restructuring, and rewriting, learning to edit their own writing for clarity and style, and receiving and applying feedback from their advisor.

Weeks 9-15: The student will finalize all edits to their thesis, incorporating feedback from both their advisor and second reader.

Learning outcomes:

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

- structure an argument and organize first and secondary materials to support it through a sustained discussion
- outline individual chapters
- produce writing that both engages with existing literature and strikes new, original ground
- distinguish between writing stages of drafting, rewriting, and editing
- edit one's own writing for content and style at the sentence, paragraph, chapter, and thesis level
- receive feedback and incorporate it into revised versions of a text

Requirements and methods of evaluation:

Students are required to meet writing deadlines laid out in the 15-week schedule above, which include submitting drafts of chapters to their advisor, incorporating feedback, rewriting and editing their chapters, and preparing the entire thesis for submission. Completed theses are approximately 50-75 pages in length and exhibit a full scholarly textual apparatus: footnotes, bibliography, illustrations, and other relevant documentation. Students will be expected to complete these materials and submit them to the department and Dean as required in anticipation of graduation. Students' performance will be evaluated on the quality of the writing they produce and their ability to edit their own work and incorporate feedback from their advisor. 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 continue, as appropriate, to supplement the bibliography that was devised in ARTH 79900.

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>