

AHY 4491 Independent Capstone Research Fall 2017

Instructor: Prof. Gabriella Szigethy

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Office Hours: by appointment

READING MATERIAL

Readings aiming at the technical background of academic writing will be provided by the instructor. Drawing up the bibliography of the senior thesis will be the students' assignment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course helps students prepare their first draft of a senior thesis to be finalized in the Spring semester. While students research their topic they also develop their knowledge of academic writing so to be able to write a 25-30 page (50-55.000 characters) long senior thesis complete with footnotes and bibliography, with proper citations and referencing in Harvard Referencing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To form a thesis statement and a definite outline.
- To complete a bibliography of a senior thesis.
- To write a draft of the senior thesis complete with bibliography.
- Learn the academic criteria of individual research and defence.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will gain a specific understanding of research in art history and art related social sciences.
- Students will improve writing, referencing, research, and argumentative skills on art historical and art-related topics.
- Students will understand more their tentative roles in academia and the importance of individual research and argument.
- Students will make preparations for finalizing their senior paper and its defence.

METHODS

- Consultations once every two weeks according to a timetable. Please make a list of your issues to be fixed beforehand. I will not consult via email.
- Written assignments due via email in between. The deadline is always 8 pm the given day.
- Interim reports as stages to major assignments

GRADING

Attendance:	10 % (Pre-settled deadlines [year, month, day, hour] are enforced in all cases. Missing a consultation or being tardy with assignments is only excused in a medical case with doctor's papers submitted to the Secretariat. Please make sure you notify me in a medical case the day before the deadline or consultation 8 pm the latest. Every unexcused tardiness or missed consultation means the reduction of the grade, one grade per issue. I only accept two medical excuses per semester.)
Thesis statement (midterm):	30% 2000-2500 character long thesis statement (2, max. 3 paragraphs). Deadline: 17 October 2017, 8pm via email.
Bibliography:	20% Min. 20 items. Deadline: 21 November 2017, 8pm via email.
First Draft:	40% At least 60 % of the required length ready with a definite outline for the rest. Deadline: 12 December 2017, 8pm via email.

Criteria for First Draft:

- Clear academic structuring of what you want to say
- Spelling, grammar, syntax
- Individuality of argument, independent reasoning
- New findings
- Proper citation
- Word count: with footnotes, but without bibliography and/or occasional pictures

Note the **Honor Code**: The College's Honor Code will be *strictly* upheld under all circumstances.

Plagiarism will mean immediate fail without warning.

Conduct throughout the semester both during the consultations and in written communication should remain respectful and conducive to reaching the goals of the course, which, once again, are as listed in the Course Objectives. Any failure to do so will result in failing the course, after one Warning.

The main goal of the course is independent research. The role of the instructor is mentoring and not decision-making. It is the students' task to come forward with ideas and solutions, also, to find the relevant academic texts for the research and the bibliography. Between consultation dates and interim reports it is the students' responsibility to make advances with their research. The Schedule is an informative minimum.

Disclaimer: if she finds it necessary, the instructor can and will make interim changes to the Schedule.

See the exact timetable of meetings and the respective interim reports (Appendix 1) attached.

Appendix 1

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE (AHY 4491) Tuesday 11.45 - 12.30 Room 220

Date	Topic
September 12	Interim assignment via email: 3 different possible research topics with respective theoretical approaches. 3 paragraphs.
September 19 Consultation	Feedback on the interim report.
September 26	Interim assignment via email: finalizing the research topic. 1st version of a thesis statement. First 3 items in the bibliography. First version of the outline.
October 3 Consultation	Feedback on the interim report.
October 10	Interim assignment via email: 2nd version of the thesis statement. Second 3 items in the bibliography. Second version of the outline.
October 17 Consultation	Feedback on the interim report. 8 pm deadline for Thesis Statement
October 24	Interim assignment via email: finalizing the first 10 items in the bibliography. 1st version of the second 10 items in the bibliography. 1st version of the outline. Introduction with thesis statement.
October 31 Consultation	Feedback on the interim report.
November 7	Interim assignment via email. Finalizing the bibliography. 2nd version of the outline
November 14 Consultation	Feedback on the interim report.
November 21	Interim assignment via email: finalizing the outline. Chapters. Deadline for the final version of the bibliography.
November 28 Consultation	Feedback on the interim report.
December 5	Interim assignment via email. Finalizing the first 60 % of minimum 25 pages.

December 12 Final deadline