

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON -- NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE (check one):	Arts and Sciences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposal Submitted By: Jon McMillan			Date Prepared:			
Course Title: Senior Thesis Seminar						
Department/discipline and course number*: ARTS 475						

*This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

Number of credits proposed:	3	Prerequisites:	ARTS 474			
Will this be a new, repeatable "special topics" course? (Do you want students to be able to take this new course more than once if the topic changes?)					NO X	YES

Date of first offering of this new course: FALL SEMESTER, year		2014	
Proposed frequency of offering of the course:		Once each Spring Semester	
List the faculty who will likely teach the course:		McMillan, Jesionowski, Garmon, Dibella, Incoming Faculty	
Are ANY new resources required?	NO X	YES	Document in attached impact statement

This new course will be (check all that apply):			
Required in the major	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Elective	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elective in the major	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Education**	<input type="checkbox"/>

**AFTER the new course is approved, a separate proposal must be sent to the General Education Committee.

Catalog Description:
Senior Studio Art majors are involved in independent research in their chosen medium or mode of expression. Individual studio research is supplemented through group meetings involving critiques, discussions, readings and field trips. Students apply all skills acquired during their course of study towards the development of a cohesive body of artwork. Analytical and conceptual approaches to art making are emphasized.

COURSE HISTORY			
Was this course taught previously as a topics or experimental course?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X	
Course Number and Title of Previous Course	Semester Offered	Enrollment	
CHECK HERE if the proposed course is to be equated with the earlier topics or experimental offerings. This means that students who took the earlier "topics" course will only be able to take the new course if they made a C- grade or lower in the earlier course.			
NOTE: If the proposed course has not been previously offered as a topics or experimental course, explain in the attached rationale statement why the course should be adopted even though it has not been tried out.			

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

1. **Rationale Statement** (Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. **Impact Statement** (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. as needed.)
3. **Sample Syllabus**

Department Chair Approval: _____ Carole Garmon _____ Date: 2/6/2014

CCC Chair Approval: _____ Date: _____

UCC Chair Approval: _____ Date: _____

University of Mary Washington
Department of Art and Art History

February 6, 2014

Dear Members of the Curriculum Committee,

Please accept this proposal for a new course titled “Senior Thesis Seminar” in the Department of Art and Art History. This course addresses the need for more student-driven, upper level Studio Art courses. It meets the requirements of a 400- level course in our Department, and will provide students with more opportunities for the development of their artwork and research while fulfilling degree requirements (as an elective.)

Senior Thesis Seminar will be limited to senior Studio Art Majors who have completed ARTS 474, and will be overseen by members of the Studio Art faculty on a rotating basis. The course content will be structured around two components: individual research in the studio, and group discussion, critique and travel. Students will create work for group critiques overseen by all full-time faculty. They will meet for studio visits, trips to area galleries, and group discussions.

I have included a sample syllabus for the course, along with a tentative calendar. The Registrar has approved the number ARTS 475 for this course.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Sincerely,

Jon McMillan

Assistant Professor of Ceramics
jmcmilla@umw.edu
540-654-1936

Rationale for New Course: ARTS 475: Senior Thesis Seminar
Jon McMillan
Department of Art and Art History

This course will provide senior Studio Art majors the opportunity to pursue the development of their work across media areas with input from all of the Studio Art Faculty. Currently, many graduating seniors in the Department of Art and Art History are left without upper-level Studio courses in their concentration during their final semester. The need for more Studio courses of this kind was also noted by outside reviewers in our Department's recently completed 2013-14 Ten-Year Review. By allowing students to work independently on proposed work in any of the art studios, the Department will be able to offer students more specialization, content development, and the kind of prolonged engagement with materials, processes and ideas that is essential to the creation of strong artwork. The course differs from others in that it is focused on independent research and includes professional critiques with all studio art faculty and invited guests.

Although our department has not run this course as a Topics course, we have offered a version of it in our ARTS 491/492 courses. For the past two years, we have altered our Individual Studies courses to utilize a more collective approach in which students participate in critiques with all members of the Studio faculty. The results of this focus on professionalism and interdisciplinary feedback have encouraged us to develop a new course that incorporates ARTS 491/492's individual research with a more rigorous critical and analytical component. Since it will be offered once a year (Spring semester) to senior majors, we see ARTS 475 as going beyond the standard 491/492 course by offering more critical analysis and a deeper level of conceptual consideration. Students in this course will have already completed the senior capstone course, ARTS 474: Professional Practices in Studio Art, and will be the kind of student that wants the experience of making art in a far more demanding setting; a more professional setting.

This course will greatly benefit senior Studio Art majors by focusing on specific goals in the development of their ideas and portfolios. Studio time will be independent and student driven and will be augmented by studio visits, in-progress critiques, field trips to area galleries, visiting speakers, and discussions about Contemporary Art. Students will contextualize their work within contemporary studio practices through self-directed studio time, providing them with unique experiential learning opportunities.

While the course will rotate supervision between the studio art faculty, all studio art faculty will participate in group critiques during Midterms and Final Exams. Thus, students will benefit from a variety of perspectives and the cross fertilization of ideas across traditional media boundaries.

The development of this course is in keeping with Studio Art curriculum offerings at other institutions, and also reflects an effort on the part of UMW Studio Art faculty to keep pace with a contemporary art world in which media distinctions are quickly disappearing. The studio component will be instrumental in the creation of work for senior art exhibitions, exit portfolios, and applications to further opportunities in the arts after UMW. The research/discussion/travel component will increase student's ability to speak and write about art through informal discussions, written reflections and presentations about their work and the work of others.

The University of Mary Washington
Department of Art and Art History
ARTS 475: Senior Thesis Seminar (sample syllabus)

Spring 2014, TTH 2-4:50 PM
Professor Jon McMillan
Email: jmcmilla@umw.edu
Phone: 654-1936
Office Hours: TTH 10-12, M 12-2

Course Description

This course is designed for the senior Studio Art major and provides an opportunity to pursue independent artistic research, while strengthening speaking and writing skills. Students will submit written proposals detailing a self-directed course of research in the media of their choice. Course work will also include group trips, discussions of relevant issues in art, and studio visits with the faculty members.

Studio work will be evaluated during group critiques with the studio art faculty. This course is the highest-level studio course offered at UMW and students are expected to adhere to the highest of standards. Additionally, students will be required to complete several writing assignments, participate in group discussions and trips, and give an oral presentation to the public on their artwork.

Learning Outcomes

- Develop a cohesive portfolio and present it in a professional manner
- Create and implement a self-directed course of research based on personal goals and interests
- Research and explore area galleries, museums, and studios
- Apply skills and knowledge to applications and experiences beyond the University setting
- Develop critical writing, thinking and speaking skills related to contemporary artistic practice
- Develop creative thought and problem solving skills related to visual communication and analysis

Requirements

Text- Readings for class discussions will generate from a variety of sources

Thesis work- Students will complete independently proposed artwork using any of the UMW Art studios. After proposals are accepted, students must contact the faculty member responsible for the proposed studio(s) to discuss studio use. Students will meet regularly with Faculty and their peers throughout the semester to evaluate work in progress. Finished work will be evaluated during two group critiques.

Presentation- Each student will give a presentation on the development of his/her artwork. Presentations will be followed by questions from the audience.

Writing Assignments- Artist statements will be turned in before each group critique for evaluation and discussion. Additionally, students will be responsible for several writing exercises based on readings and trips.

Participation- Students are expected to participate fully in class trips, group discussions, critiques, and assignments. Failure to actively contribute to the class dialogue will result in lowered final grades

Grading

The following points breakdown will be used to determine final grades:

Artwork	60
Writing Assignments	10
Presentation	10
Participation	20
Total	100

“A” Work is characterized by outstanding achievement and understanding of critical analysis as reflected in solutions to assignments, technical competence and the critique process. Student goes above and beyond basic assignments. Student must display preparedness and efficient dedication to scheduled studio time. Adherence to attendance policy. No late work.

“B” Work is characterized by distinct competence and understanding of critical analysis as reflected in solutions to assignments, technical competence and the critique process. Student must display preparedness and dedication to scheduled studio time. Adherence to attendance policy.

“C” Work is characterized by basic competence and understanding of critical analysis as reflected in solutions to assignments, technical competence and the critique process. Student must display adequate preparedness and dedication to scheduled studio time. Adherence to attendance policy.

“D” Work is characterized by minimal effort and success. Lowest passing grade.

Attendance

Since the nature of this course is self-directed research, students will adhere to department policy on attendance and attend all critiques, scheduled group trips and discussion sessions.

Safety

Students will need authorization by discipline specific faculty in order to use studios. You will be instructed on the safe and proper use of studio tools and equipment. Do not use any studio equipment until you have received this instruction. If you are unsure of equipment procedures, or have concerns about the functionality of studio equipment, discontinue use and ask me.

Honor Code

All work and written assignments produced by each student in the course is expressly his/her own and is completed according to the requirements for the specific assignment. Tools and materials are to be used in the studio and should not be removed without instructor approval. Infringements of this policy will be referred to the Honor Council.

Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through their office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. Refer to the UMW Directory and the UMW Academic Catalogue for more information.

*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Sample Course Calendar

ARTS 475: Senior Thesis Seminar

First half of semester:

Course introduction

Proposals due

Group trips to Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA, and VCU, Richmond, VA

Studio visits with faculty

Group Discussion: Reading, "Art and Risk," by Tony Hepburn

Artist Statements due for Midterm work

2/27- Midterm Critique with all Studio Art faculty

3/4- Spring Break

3/6- Spring Break

Second half of semester:

Group visit to Libertytown Arts Workshop to view UMW Invitational show, Smithsonian American Art Museum: "Watch This" video exhibition

Studio visits with faculty

Group discussion: Video: "Ai weiwei: Without Fear or Favor," Discussion

Group trip to studio of Catherine White and Warren Frederick, Warrenton, VA

4/8- Presentations- Group 1

4/15- Presentations- Group 2

4/22- Artist statements due- Final critique, Studio work time

4/24- Studio clean up

4/29- Final Critique with all Studio Art faculty, 4-6:30 PM