

UMBC UGC New Course Request: ART490- Senior Art History Thesis or Curatorial Project

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Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2010

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COURSE INFORMATION:

course number(s)	ART 490
formal title	Senior Art History Thesis or Curatorial Project
transcript title (≤24c)	Thesis / Curatorial
prerequisite	Permission of the instructor
credits	3
max. repeat credits	0
grading method(s)	X Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit X Pass-Fail (Student Option)

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The student undertakes advanced individual work in history, theory or criticism under the direction of a member of the art history faculty. The project is finished during the last semester of a student's senior year. The student may choose to submit a research paper and to deliver an accompanying oral presentation at the Senior Thesis show held annually in the month of May at the Center for Art Design and Visual Culture. Alternatively the student may choose to conduct a curatorial project (in conjunction with the Senior Thesis show) with an accompanying exhibition thesis. □

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

- Art history students will benefit from an independently conceived research project that represents the culmination of their undergraduate education in the field of art history and museum studies.
- The completion of an advanced research project will be an accomplishment that will enhance the student's resume and his or her applications to graduate school, jobs in the field or internships.
- The assessment of an advanced research project will be a useful tool to monitor the goals and curriculum of the art history concentration.
- This project will give the art history faculty an opportunity to conduct in-depth discussions about art historical methodology and theory. All the other 400 level art history seminars include a mix of students from various visual arts concentrations and other disciplines making a narrow focus on disciplinary methodology inappropriate.
- All the other concentrations in the visual arts program have to complete a senior thesis or capstone project. Thus far art history students have not had to undertake a similar challenge.

ATTACH COURSE OUTLINE:

The seminar discussions will focus on instructing students about art historical theories and methodologies, their historical contexts and political underpinnings (e.g. psychoanalysis; social history of art; semiotics and structuralism; poststructuralism). For the remainder of the semester each student will work individually with the faculty member to complete her or his final project. During this process will students will attend three class meetings to report on their progress and to provide constructive critiques of their peers' efforts.