WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY

ART

Senior Art History Thesis and Presentation

All art history Art majors are required to prepare a senior art history thesis and presentation in their senior year. The art history thesis is a lengthy (twenty-plus pages) academic research paper on a topic of the student's choice in consultation with the art history advisor. During the spring semester of their junior year, art history students determine their thesis topic, begin some preliminary research, and schedule their thesis presentation. Art history seniors must also take Art 400 Artist's Portfolio/Exhibition. The checklist below must be completed.

The art history thesis is prepared as follows:

1. The thesis proposal: a one-page written description of the student's thesis topic and research plan. Due by the end of the spring semester prior to the student's senior year.

2. The first draft: a good first draft of the thesis, ten-pages or more in length, including extensive citations, a Bibliography demonstrating reasonable progress on the research, and illustrations with figure numbers, captions and citations. Due by the end of the semester prior to the student's intended graduating semester.

3. The final draft: the final thesis must demonstrate art historical scholarship, including the ability to conduct in-depth art historical research on a specific topic, a comprehension of relevant art history theory and methodology, and senior-level writing competency.
The final draft should include all revisions suggested by the art history advisor on the first draft, be between twenty-to-fifty pages of written text, and include a cover page, table of contents with page numbers, headings and sub-headings, extensive citations, extensive Bibliography, and illustrations with figure numbers, captions and citations.

4. The thesis presentation: art history students must schedule their thesis presentation with the department gallery director the year prior to graduation. The thesis presentation is typically scheduled at the end of the student's final semester - after the student has turned in the final draft of their thesis and received approval from the art history advisor.

5. Art faculty thesis presentation review committee: art history students must ask two Art faculty members (apart from their advisor) to attend and review their thesis presentation. The review committee members must sign the checklist below to indicate their approval of the thesis presentation. The thesis presentation should be about 20 minutes in length, discuss the central ideas of the thesis, and be appropriate for a general audience.

6. The final thesis copy: the student and art history advisor will inevitably find additional revisions to the thesis following the final draft and presentation. The student should make those revisions and prepare a quality copy of their thesis to be retained by the art history advisor for department purposes and for the student's own benefit (e.g. graduate school applications).

7. Completed Checklist: the checklist must be completed, signed by the art history advisor, gallery director, and Art faculty review committee, and turned in to the department chair, following the thesis presentation, to complete the student's degree requirements.

Art History Thesis and Presentation Checklist for _____
Student's Name

_____Thesis proposal received and approved.
Date and art history advisor signature: _____

_____Thesis presentation scheduled and arranged with gallery director.
Gallery director signature: _____

Date of presentation: _____

_____ Student is registered for Art 400 Artist's Portfolio/Exhibit in their senior year.

_____First draft of thesis received and approved. Date: _____

_____Final draft of thesis received and approved.
Date and art history advisor signature: _____

_____Thesis presentation approved. Date and Art faculty review committee members' signatures:

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_____Final thesis copy turned in to art history advisor.

The student must turn in a copy of this signed and dated checklist to the department chair following their thesis presentation in order to complete all degree requirements.