ART 5395 & 5396   <u>**Art History MA Thesis Syllabus**</u>   **Spring 2026**
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Office Hours: Tues. 12:30 to 1:30 pm, by appointment & Zoom meeting
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For Coronavirus Precautionary Information, see: https://www.uttyler.edu/coronavirus/

<u>**DO NOT COME ON CAMPUS IF YOU ARE ILL**</u>. CONTACT DR. LISOT (elisot@uttyler.edu)

<u>**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**</u>
ART 5395 and 5396 (3 credit hours each) are faculty directed courses that graduate students enroll in while writing their master's thesis in art history. Prior to enrolling in the course(s) the student will select a faculty advisor (chair) for their thesis. The chair must be an art historian at UTT, and the subject of the thesis must be in an area suited to the expertise of the chair. With the advice of the chair, the student will contact two additional UTT faculty members to form a thesis committee. In addition to the chair, it is preferred that one of the other faculty members also be an art historian. The number of faculty members must consist of at least three members, including the advisor and all should have expertise pertinent to the topic. It is required that all faculty on the committee have proper "Graduate Faculty Membership" according to the UTT Graduate School and be at the minimum a "Provisional Graduate Research Faculty." The chair of the committee must have "Graduate Research Faculty" designation. No adjunct faculty may serve on a thesis committee in an official capacity. A visiting professor may be included as either a fourth non-voting advisory member or, if he or she has a relevant specialty in the thesis topic and meets the required criteria for selection according the UTT Graduate School regulation, may be included as a voting member or co-chair after approval by three qualified department faculty members, the department chair, the dean of the College of Arts and Science and the dean of the Graduate School.

<u>**COURSE PREREQUISITES:**</u> consent of graduate advisor and thesis advisor

<u>**ENROLLMENT:**</u> In order to enroll for the course, the student must first:

a. Complete any required language classes needed for competent research on the thesis topic.
b. Form a thesis committee and submit a departmental thesis committee form, page 10 of the "Art History Grad Policy for the Masters of Arts in Art with an emphasis in Art History." The completed form must be signed by all committee members. The committee chair will submit a committee membership form to the dean of UTT Graduate School for approval.
c. Develop, under the supervision of the chair, a formal proposal for the thesis, which must be approved by all committee members and include a working title that can change.
d. Obtain the course permission code from the Department of Art and Art History. The student is not allowed to enroll without the permission of the thesis advisor (chair).
e. Enroll in ART 5395 before enrolling in ART 5396, unless the two courses will be taken concurrently. The latter is only done with the permission of the chair.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Texts will be determined by the student and approved by the faculty. A formal bibliography is required as part of the thesis.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Allocate <u>at least 9 hours per week</u> to work on research and writing of the thesis per 3 hour course.

2. During the semester the student will maintain frequent contact with the chair, whether in person or via email; suggested frequency is at least every other week to discuss the progress of the thesis. The student should also keep all the committee members aware of his or her progress.

3. Students must follow all the procedures for completion of the thesis found on the UTT Graduate School website: https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/thesis-dissertation/thesis-students.php

4. **The thesis must be written using the UTT Graduate School template:** https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/files/chicago-template.pdf

5. The first week of the semester, the student will create and submit to the chair a calendar delineating proposed dates for submission of the various parts of the thesis to the chair during the semester, including: a working bibliography, an introduction, chapters, images, thesis abstract and a suggested defense date. The chair must approve the proposed calendar.

6. During the course of the semester, the student will email drafts of sections of the thesis to the chair according to the proposed calendar and edit the thesis as suggested by the advisor's feedback. If the student is unable to meet the proposed dates for submission, the student must contact the supervisor in a timely manner and set up new dates for competition of sections.

7. If the thesis is not completed by the end of the semester, the student will make a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the progress made on the thesis to be presented during the semester-end critiques (typically during finals week). Faculty and fellow students will give feedback.

8. Once the chair determines that the thesis is reasonably complete, the student will submit a draft of the thesis to all committee members. This should be done FIVE TO SIX WEEKS before a proposed oral defense date.

9. The committee members should provide written comments to the student recommending improvements within two weeks after the draft submission.

10. The student will make edits according to the feedback of all committee members and resubmit a final thesis draft at least two weeks before the oral defense date.

    a. The oral defense of the thesis will take place after a final draft of the thesis has been submitted to all committee members, they have had time to respond and the student has made requested changes.

    b. The student is required to pass an oral defense of the thesis, which requires a scholarly presentation of the thesis and successful fielding of questions from the committee.

    c. There could be final changes to the thesis required by the committee at the oral defense before they will give final approval and sign the signatory page. There is no guarantee that a thesis reviewed by the committee before the defense will be accepted, nor that the student will pass the oral defense.

11. <u>The oral defense date must be at least one week before the deadline for submission of the thesis to the UTT Graduate School</u> in order to allow time for any final changes, and in order to obtain

all required signatures. See the Graduate School Calendar for submission deadlines: https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/colleges-schools/graduate/calendar/

12. The chair will submit the form with the oral defense date to the UTT Graduate School no less than 14 days prior to the oral defense.

13. All faculty committee members, the department chair and the Dean of COS must sign the final thesis signatory page before submission of the approved final thesis to the graduate school.

14. The quality expected of the thesis and oral defense is the highest level and should demonstrate a mastery of art historical methodologies of research, innovative interpretation and strong written and oral communication skills.

15. If the thesis is not approved, or the oral defense is not passed, the committee chair will submit in writing a statement to the student, the committee members and department chair explaining the reasons for disapproval and alternatives for the student to complete the thesis and defense.

16. If the committee does not approve the thesis and the student decides to appeal the evaluation, the student shall follow procedures for appealing a grade in a course; however, the committee chair will be part of the appeal process instead of a course instructor.

ABOUT THIS COURSE – ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI is not permitted in this course at all.

It is required that all work students submit for this course be their own. The course has been carefully designed so that all assignments and class activities support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, it is expressly forbidden to use ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, paper content, citations, editing, grammar, discussion content, video, audio, images, to answer or create quiz or exam questions, etc.) for any and all assignments. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values. Also not allowed is for a student to have another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT). See section on Academic Integrity below for further explanation of what constitutes plagiarism.

THESIS COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. The course requires the student to create a proposed calendar, to meet with the chair and turn in (via email) all required drafts, final thesis, as well as complete the oral defense in a timely manner in order to fulfill department and graduate school deadlines.

B. The course requires that the student write a thesis paper approximately 45 pages long with footnotes, labeled images and bibliography (images and bibliography are not included in the 45 pages). An adequate use of primary sources is required as determined by chair.

C. The thesis must be written using Chicago Manual of Style citation format. See: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

D. The thesis must be written using the UTT Graduate School template, see https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/files/chicago-template.pdf

E. The thesis topic must be original and not duplicate previously published work; however, acknowledgement of current scholarship on the subject should be demonstrated in the thesis.

F. The student must conduct required research in a foreign language pertinent to the topic. As the chair will direct student research in the applicable foreign language, the student must choose a topic with scholarly publications in a language in which the chair has reading proficiencies.

G. The student will create a PowerPoint to use at the thesis oral defense, which will last approximately 45-60 minutes – including time for questions by the faculty – and be attended by all committee members. The date must be agreed upon by all committee members.

H. Student must satisfactorily pass the oral defense per the assessment of all committee members.

I. After the successful thesis oral defense:
   a. Thesis manuscript is submitted to thesis committee members for physical signatures
   b. The thesis must also be signed by the department chair and dean.
   c. Thesis manuscript, with signed signature page, is submitted by the student to gradmanuscripts@uttyler.edu (faculty member may submit on behalf of student but student must be cc'd)
   d. gradmanuscripts@uttyler.edu will send electronic manuscript to the reviewer and will correspond with student via email
   e. Student should check email for revisions; initial submission does not indicate approval of manuscript/graduation

J. Both ART 5394 and 5396 are required for successful completion of the MA degree in Art withan emphasis in Art History. The student must complete a minimum of six (6) thesis hours to complete the MA degree, but may enroll in the same course(s) if either a grade of IP (in progress) or NC (no credit) is received.

K. FINAL GRADE:

The faculty supervisor determines the final grade based upon the quantity and quality of work completed, and whether the student turns in a calendar and drafts on time according to the proposed scheduled. IF THESIS DRAFTS ARE NOT SUBMITTED IN A TIMELY MANNER THE STUDENT MAY NOT PASS THE COURSE AND NOT GRADUATE!

Possible grades for the course are: CR (credit), IP (in progress) or NC (no credit). Once six hours of thesis have been completed CR, previous IP grades will be changed to CR; however, only six credit hours of thesis will be applied to the MA degree. NC is essentially an "F" and cannot be changed.

GRADUATE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

HISTORICAL IDENTIFICATION: Students will be able to demonstrate a mastery of historical identification, including major art styles, personal artistic styles of key artists, significant movements, and important trends throughout various historical periods of American, European, or non-Western art.

EVALUATE SCHOLARSHIP: Students will be able to analyze and compare theoretical methodologies and scholarly perspectives when evaluating the literature of the discipline.

ANALYSIS USING ART HISTORICAL THEORY: Students will be able to analyze works of art works from multiple theoretical perspectives.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH METHODS: Students will be able to conduct advanced scholarly research utilizing standards and methods of the discipline.

ORIGINAL SCHOLARLY RESEARCH: Students will be able to construct inquiry-based theories that build upon existing research of the discipline to create original research.

ORAL PROFIECIENCY: Students will present their original scholarship as part of the requirements for this art history course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: all cheating and/or plagiarism will be treated with the utmost severity as per UT Tyler policy. Using artificial intelligence (A.I.), such as CHAT GPT (or any other AI chatbot), is considered plagiarism as it is not your own work. **DO NOT USE A.I.! THIS COURSE IS INTENDED TO DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING AND RESEARCH SKILLS – THEREFORE YOU NEED TO DO THE WORK YOURSELF!** Please consult A Student Guide to Conduct and Discipline at UT Tyler (available in the Office of Student Affairs) for university regulations regarding academic dishonesty: "3.22 Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." **PLAGIARIZED PAPERS (any amount, INCLUDING A.I.) WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ZERO "0"- NO CREDIT**

> **Plagiarize** \\'pla-je-,riz *also* j - -\\ *vb* **-rized**; **-riz·ing** *vt* [*plagiary*]: to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (a created production) without crediting the source vi: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source - **pla·gia·riz·er** *n* From: *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed*, (Springfield, Ma: Merriam 1981), 870.

FALSE CITATIONS ARE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM & EARN A GRADE OF ZERO

The citation must be to the correct source: with correct page numbers, author, edition and/or URL. Be aware that AI often makes false citations but <u>you</u> will be penalized for them.

INFORMATION ON PLAGIARISM CONTINUED:

a. It is unacceptable to copy something out of a book, newspaper, journal, Internet site or any printed source without citing your source. The most blatant example of this is directly copying something word for word. This includes artificial intelligence programs. It does not matter if it's only a phrase. If it is not yours, you must either not use it or place it in quotes and reference it.

b. **If you paraphrase another person's words or ideas, you still must cite them as a source.** Do not put a paraphrase in quotes, but be sure to give the author's name, the text and the page where you found the idea. (Use normal citation format.)

c. **False citations are considered plagiarism**. Check all sources and links to be sure they are correct.

STUDENT RESOURCES AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Located on the Canvas Course in Modules, location for links to the full list of student resources and university policies.

UT TYLER GRADUATE SCHOOL THESIS AND DISSERTATION CENTER

Website: https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/thesis-dissertation/

STEP BY STEP THESIS PROCESS FOR STUDENT:

https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/colleges-schools/graduate/grad-faculty/files/thesis-process-student.pdf

Roles and responsibilities of chair, committee members and students:

https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/files/roles-and-responsibilities-of-chair-committee-and-students.pdf

Thesis manuscript template for Chicago Manual of Style:

https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/files/chicago-template.pdf

IMPORTANT DATES:

SEE GRADUATE SCHOOL CALENDAR WEBPAGE:
https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/colleges-schools/graduate/calendar/

You must submit your manuscript in Word format (not PDF) for your format review. After your manuscript has received final formatting approval you will submit your final manuscript in PDF form to the University's Institutional Repository.

All UT Tyler graduate students are required to submit an electronic copy of their thesis/dissertation to the University's Institutional Repository (Scholar Works). Know your rights! Please review our **Electronic Thesis/Dissertation Submission Sheet for Rights Management and Access** information.

With electronic thesis submission, we no longer require students to submit bound thesis copies for the library; however, if you or your department would like to have bound copies, contact **UT Tyler Patriot Printing** for pricing.

If at any time you have a question regarding these policies and procedures, contact The Graduate School at **gradforms@uttyler.edu**.