ART 5395/5396: Graduate Thesis
ART 5397: Graduate Exhibition

Course Expectations and Responsibilities
The final semester of MA and MFA graduate studies in studio art culminate in thesis and graduate exhibition. It is imperative that the candidate works closely with his/her committee in all phases of the project to ensure a valuable learning experience and a quality result.

Thesis and Graduate Exhibition Hours
Upon Completion of all required courses, university, college, departmental requirements, the candidate will enroll in three (3) to six (6) hours of thesis work, and three (3) hours of thesis exhibition.

MA & MFA Student Learning Outcomes
ANALYZE OBJECTS    Students will be able to analyze the components of their visual object(s) and articulate the intended and discovered content of their aesthetic.

CONTEXTUALIZE AESTHETICS    Students will be able to contextualize the artist's aesthetic to the canon of art history and contemporary art theory.

DOCUMENT WORKS    Students will be able to digitally document their art works for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.

EXHIBIT WORKS    Students will participate in juried, solo, group or curated exhibitions of their work.

INTERPRET WORKS    Students will be able to define and interpret their works of art within the context of contemporary art.

RELATIVITY    The student will be able to critique art works relative to traditional standards v. innovative standards.

MA and MFA Thesis Exhibition
The culmination of the MFA program is the Thesis Exhibition, which occurs during the last semester of the candidate’s matriculation. It is crucial that graduate students are aware of the expectations of this final semester, and that the student is prepared to present a cohesive Thesis Exhibition.

Approval from the candidate’s committee must be given before the semester in which the student enrolls in the Thesis Exhibition hours. The location of the exhibition requires prior approval from the Graduate Committee, as well. Arrangement for the exhibition of the approved work must be made with the Graduate Committee, the Director of Exhibitions, and the Chair of the Department of Art + Art History.

Thesis Exhibition Proposal
Prior to enrolling in thesis credits, and with the advice and approval of the Committee Chair, the candidate must define the broad parameters of the exhibition. An exhibition proposal is then prepared and submitted to the graduate Committee Members for their approval and signatures.
Exhibition Proposal Preparation
The candidate should be aware that the work itself must be judged by the faculty to be original, conceptually mature, technically proficient, and formally sound. The exhibition proposal should include the following materials:

1. Cover Sheet The proposed exhibition should include a cover sheet that includes the proposed Title for the exhibition, name, date, etc.
2. Description of the Proposed Work The candidate should provide a brief description of the work. The media, content, and formal characteristics of the proposed work should be described as completely and succinctly as possible.
3. Background In this section of the proposal, the candidate should provide a brief description of the source, inspiration, or basis for the work proposed.

Defense and Documentation
During the period of the graduate exhibition candidates will be expected to present an oral defense of the thesis exhibition. During this defense, candidates must present their graduate committee with the following:

   – Title Page—conventional page showing essential bibliographical information
   – Signature page—serves as a formal record of approval
   – Text—the main body of the thesis
2. Photographic documentation of the thesis exhibition in digital format. CD containing images of the installed thesis exhibition, and individual images of each work. The images must be of the highest quality of the Thesis Exhibition.
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Artist’s statement
5. Artist’s biography
6. Statement of influences
7. List of works included in the exhibition
8. Public Lecture- candidates are required to present a public lecture concerning their thesis work. The lecture will be scheduled by the Studio Art Graduate Coordinator and the Gallery Director.

This information should be presented in a bound folder. MFA candidates will not have completed the graduation requirements unless all of this information is approved by the graduate committee and is on file with the Graduate Coordinator. The quality of this exhibition will be the primary determinate as to whether the candidate will be granted the Master of Fine Arts degree.

Oral Defense and Written Thesis
Candidates are required to complete an oral defense of the thesis exhibition by giving a scholarly presentation of the thesis work and fielding questions from the Graduate Committee.

The candidate’s written thesis should provide information that leads to an understanding of the intent of the work. The thesis document must demonstrate a thorough awareness of the sources, inspiration, and traditions relevant to the work, as well as the particular methods employed in the use of materials and conceptual principles that determined the form of the completed work. The
quality of the oral defense and written thesis will also be considered in whether the candidate will be
granted the Master of Fine Arts degree.

**Possession of Work**
The Department of Art + Art History is entitled to retain as many as two works by each graduate
student. The intention is to honor the successful candidate and to provide evidence of his/her success
in lieu of the usual formal thesis. These works will become the property of the Permanent Collection
of the Department of Art + Art History at The University of Texas at Tyler.

**Final Semester Grade**

**ART 5395/5396**
Your final grade for the semester is based on the following:

50% Body of Work Created

- Body of work will be assessed on the following:
  - Quantity of work
  - Quality of work
  - Innovation and development of the studio practice, including but not limited to the
technical, aesthetic, and conceptual development and progression
  - Cohesion of formal and conceptual properties

50% Thesis Document

**ART 5397**
Your final grade for the semester is based on the following:

50% Body of Work Created

- Body of work will be assessed on the following:
  - Quantity of work
  - Quality of work
  - Innovation and development of the studio practice, including but not limited to the
technical, aesthetic, and conceptual development and progression
  - Cohesion of formal and conceptual properties

50% Graduate Exhibition

Your final semester grade will be determined after the graduate exhibition oral defense and in consultation
with the student’s graduate committee.

**Studio Safety and Maintenance**
Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment and practice safe operation procedures when using
any hazardous equipment or materials. The student should only use these materials and equipment after the
instructor has given instruction in the safe use of such equipment and materials. The instructor has the right
and responsibility to suspend any art student from operating a piece of equipment if the instructor believes
the student is incapable of operating the equipment in a safe manner. This is done so not to jeopardize the
health and safety of the student or other members of the class.

- Students in studio classes are required to clean up and put away supplies that have been used during
  the class session.
- Children and non-registered students are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Radio use in the studio is restricted to the use of personal headphones (not during class).
Students will sign an Art Safety Agreement after completing a safety training course offered by the instructor and reading the attached Department of Art After Hours Studio Policy.

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

- A first aid kit is located in each studio.
Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

* This syllabus is subject to change
**Please see UT Tyler’s academic calendar for all important academic deadlines and dates. Important dates for critiques and assignments will be posted on Blackboard, announced in class, and stated on handouts.