

Arty History Thesis Process, 2020-2021
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Given the unusual circumstances of the coming school year, a revised approach to the 2020-2021 thesis process will be adopted to accommodate the extraordinary shifts of next year's school calendar (particularly the absence of a winter study research period and the possibility that classes may have to shift to remote learning at some point during the fall and/or spring). Students will be able to select one of two tracks outlined below towards thesis completion. A thesis interest meeting will also be scheduled in October towards providing students with a more robust outline of the process, including the application process and important due dates / deadlines. Please contact Michelle Apotsos with further questions.

Track 1 (for students who have already completed a research paper appropriate for the thesis process)

Timeline:

- *Early Fall:*
 - Students recruit a faculty advisor who agrees that their selected paper is appropriate for the thesis process and agrees to oversee the thesis.
 - Student generates a plan of action in collaboration with faculty advisor on research to be completed over the fall semester / winter study period (equivalent to a winter study work proposal that includes weekly / monthly schedule, guiding research inquiries, possible sources, etc.) towards transforming paper into an emergent thesis. There is no established format for this plan of action, but it must be agreed upon by both the student and the advisor.
 - Important note: the work a student will do in the fall semester will be self-directed, independent research with occasional check-ins with the faculty advisor. In other words, the work students will undertake on an already-written paper in the fall semester towards turning it into a thesis would be done on their own time for no course credit.
- *Late Fall / Early Winter:*
 - Student submits thesis application with faculty advisor approval along with a potential research budget for the winter and spring period
- *Winter:*
 - Should application be approved, student will continue remote self-directed research (this time in conjunction with faculty advisor AND department thesis advisor) over the course of the winter break.
- *Spring:*
 - Spring semester thesis seminar goes as planned either in person or remotely.

Track 2: (for students who need to complete a research paper appropriate for the thesis process)

Timeline:

- *Early Fall:*
 - With faculty approval and in conjunction with regular coursework, the student takes a course on a “thesis track” i.e. the course will result in the culmination of a 15-25 page research paper of thesis level quality. Student will accordingly accomplish more research over the semester than a usual seminar / research paper will require towards producing a more thesis-ready product
 - This paper can be written for any course provided the faculty member agrees to allow the student to take the course on the “thesis track.”
- *Fall:*
 - In addition to the regular coursework for a class (or in place of coursework, depending on the opinion of the faculty member), student will undertake this research in a largely self-directed and independent fashion.
- *Mid-Fall / Late Fall:*
 - Faculty member provides an assessment at both the middle of the semester and at the end of semester evaluating the quality and thesis potential of the paper project.
 - Student recruits a faculty advisor (most likely the one who has overseen the project thus far) who agrees that the paper is appropriate for the thesis process and agrees to oversee the thesis.
- *Late Fall / Early Winter:*
 - Student submits thesis application with faculty advisor approval along with a potential research budget for the winter and spring period
- *Winter:*
 - Should application be approved, student will continue remote self-directed research (this time in conjunction with faculty advisor AND department thesis advisor) over the course of the winter break.
- *Spring:*
 - Spring semester thesis seminar goes as planned either in person or remotely.

*Students who are on an off cycle schedule or who have taken a leave that might make the previous two options untenable will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Michelle Apotsos for more information.