

ARTH 490: Senior Thesis (3 credits)

Enrollment in ARTH 490 may be approved for interested seniors who have already written a seminar paper for a professor who agrees that the paper or a related topic would be a suitable basis for a thesis. ARTH 490 is taken in spring term, during which time students are completing research, writing the thesis, and meeting regularly with the advisor. The course proceeds as an independent tutorial. During semesters in which several students are writing theses, occasional meetings as a group will allow for collaborative discussion of work in progress. A senior thesis in art history is typically 40-50 pages.

Seniors considering writing a thesis should consult with the professor early in fall of senior year. If a topic is deemed promising, the student pursues preliminary research. Before the end of the fall semester, s/he prepares a proposal so that the advisor can determine whether the student may register for ARTH 490 in spring.

Timeline during senior year:

by September 15:

student consults with a professor about the possibility of writing a senior thesis and a likely topic. If it is deemed promising, the student proceeds with preliminary research.

by December 1:

student prepares a brief proposal (usually 4-5 pages) describing the topic and aims of the thesis. This should indicate the planned method/s of inquiry and include an outline of chapters and working bibliography. The proposal allows the advisor to determine whether the student may register for ARTH 490 in spring.

by January 15:

student prepares a writing schedule in consultation with the advisor. This will indicate target dates for drafts of chapters, allowing time for review by the advisor and revision of drafts. The thesis proposal is reviewed and refined, and tentative meeting dates are scheduled.

during spring semester:

student meets regularly (typically bi-weekly) with the advisor to discuss progress and chapter drafts.

in April:

student submits the finished thesis for final review and grading. The specific due date will have been determined in January with the advisor. This should be no later than the last day of classes. A student wishing to have her/his thesis considered for the Department's annual Misty Dailey Award will need to submit the completed thesis by the second week of April.