

ART 875 MLS Research
Syllabus

Instructor Information:

Erica S. Bittel

Instructor, Department of Art and Design

Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design, Room 217

e-mail – esbittel@fhsu.edu

Course Information:

The MLS Research course consists of a collaborative arrangement between the instructor and the student and is geared toward the student's scholarly interests and course of study. The course is comprised of relevant guided readings and culminates in some form of scholarly writing (options outlined below).

1. You can write separate formal analysis and research papers on topic/s of your choosing; each paper should be 10-15 pages in length. The formal analysis is due around midterm, and the research is due at the end of the semester; official due dates TBD.

--OR--

2. You can combine the formal analysis and research assignments for ART 880 into a single, larger paper (20-30 pages in length), which would be due at the end of the semester; again, official due dates TBD.

--OR--

3. In lieu of one or two large papers, the instructor and student can collaboratively compile a reading list based on the student's art historical interests; the student will submit bi-weekly critical summaries over the readings (each 2-3 pages in length, totaling approx. 15-20 pages by the end of the semester); due dates will be assigned.

Important: The following information has been formulated to provide instructions regarding each of the above-mentioned options.

Formal Analysis: approximately 10-15 pages

topics must be discussed with and approved by the instructor

The student will choose a specific work of art or a series of works related to their interests and/or field of study. The paper will consist of a discussion of the formal aspects of the work of art, including, but not limited to, line, shape, form, color, space, balance, and texture. While content and cultural context of the work of art is not necessarily part of the formal analysis, it certainly may be addressed if it is relevant.

Remember, this is **not** a research paper; rather, it is a demonstration of the student's formal analysis skills. Once the instructor and the student have agreed upon a topic, it may not be changed without instructor approval.

Critical Research: approximately 10-15 pages

topics must be discussed with and approved by the instructor

The in-depth, critical research paper should be a comprehensive treatment of a particular topic. Unlike the formal analysis paper, it is not a personal commentary on a work of art, nor is it merely a compilation of other scholars' writings; it is a critical consideration of the topic, as well as the scholarly research pertaining to the topic.

Bi-Weekly Critical Summaries: 3-4 pages each; 8 total summaries

topics must be discussed with and approved by the instructor

Some things to consider in the critical summaries:

- discuss the author's thesis and how the author supports their argument;
- Is the argument structured effectively? Why or why not?;
- What are the pros and cons of the article (in terms of content, structure, readability, etc.);
- Has the author used evidence to support their work? If so, what kind of evidence? Provide specific examples;
- Who is the audience of the article--general, academic, niche, hobbyist, etc.?

NOTE: Page length does not include the title page, endnotes, bibliography, or illustration pages. Illustrations should be placed at the end of the paper, not within the written text. Each paper should be submitted in the Chicago/Turabian style, and typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Please use standard one-inch margins for the entire document.

Once the instructor and the student have agreed upon a topic, it may not be changed without instructor approval.

Lack of illustrations or identification of artworks, or a lack of sufficient footnotes or bibliography, will be considered plagiarism. Remember, a direct quote from a book or article, or even an explanation or re-wording of another person's idea, requires a source – failure to use citations will also be considered plagiarism.

Please make sure all articles are from a scholarly source. If you have questions regarding the validity of a source, please ask!

Tools:

The Art Index, located through Forsyth Library, is a useful tool for researching as are the online databases found on the Forsyth Library website.

<http://www.fhsu.edu/library/>

Forsyth Library may not have all the books and articles that you will need in order to fully research your chosen topic – remember, books and articles can be ordered through Interlibrary Loan:

<https://fhsu.edu/library/collections/ill>. Be sure to allow yourself sufficient time!

Evaluation and Grading:

Formal Analysis 300 points

AND

Research Paper 300 points

OR

Combined Paper 600 points

OR

Bi-weekly summaries 75 points each (8 total)

Total: 600 points

Grading will be based on the substance, clarity, and quality of written work, and the effort made to learn the material and contribute in a positive way to your personal success in the class. Grading rubrics can be found on Blackboard.

An Incomplete (or "I") grade will only be given in extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading Scale:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59-0 = U

Academic Honesty:

All assignments must be your own work! Visual and/or written plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Students are encouraged to read FHSU's Academic Honesty Policy, which is found in the University Catalog and online at:

https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

The statement below was developed by FHSU's Writing Across the Curriculum committee to accompany the professional and ethical concerns of the academic honesty policies at FHSU.

The use of AI-generated texts is **strictly prohibited** in this course. Assignments that are suspected of or found to be plagiarized or employ the use of unauthorized AI tools will be subject to the University Academic Honesty Policy and may result in a 0 for the assignment, failure of the course, and, if warranted, expulsion from FHSU.

Special Learning Conditions/Accommodations:

Fort Hays State University, in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, provides assistance and resources for students with disabilities. The Student Accessibility Services office is located within Health and Wellness Services in the Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success, Room 301, 785-628-4401. This is the appropriate office for students, faculty or staff to contact to verify and notify the University of a student's documented disability. After verification of a documented disability, the Student Accessibility Services office will initiate a request for services. Students

should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class if they require special accommodations for test taking, carrying out assignments, or any other need for assistance.

Title IX:

FHSU is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender, and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all types of gender and relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact Amy Schaffer, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at alschaffer@fhsu.edu or (785) 628-4175. The Compliance Officer can help connect you to campus and outside resources, discuss all of your reporting options, and assist with any concerns you may have.

Student Support Services:

- FHSU Tiger Tech: <https://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/>
- Forsyth Library: <http://www.fhsu.edu/library>
- Writing Center: <https://www.fhsu.edu/writingcenter/index>