HONORS THESIS (ART-UA 801)
Department of Art History, New York University
Fall Semester (R 2:00-4:45, Silver Center Room 307)
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Course Description

This seminar examines methodological approaches to research in the history of art and architecture. The goal of the course is to help students write a well-organized, cogently argued honors thesis. It is a combination of a history of ideas and a practical tutorial on "how-to" interpret works of art and architecture. The class builds on writing exercises based on the readings that pertain to each student's thesis topic. The exercises will stimulate discussions about writing in the disciplines of art and architectural history, while the assignments will encourage the students' analytical and creative thinking.

Course Requirements

Grades will be awarded based on attendance and class participation, a series of weekly assignments, the thesis project presentation, and the final draft.

Attendance and Class Participation	25%
Weekly assignments & written reports	25%
Thesis Project Presentations	25%
Final outline, bibliography & draft	25%

Written Assignments

All written assignments must be original work. The format will be specified for each assignment (bibliographies, annotations, short essays, and outlines are a few of the formats that you should master). Specifications will be handed out in the class prior to which the assignments are due. Late assignments will result in lowering your grade. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. All assignments will be returned to you with comments and you may be asked to rewrite them in response to those comments.

Journals: or written reports will be reflections on your meetings/consultations with your individual advisor. You are expected to meet with your advisor at least bi-weekly throughout the semester. I will expect a written report/journal with your thoughts/comments/reflections on how your research and project are shaped as a result of that meeting.
Synopses: Follow the template posted on Blackboard and write a synopsis for each one of the articles (books) you read on your thesis topic. The synopsis will help you tweet. See below:
Tweets: Create a Twitter account. It does not have to be your real name, but rather something that derives from your topic. Follow @mywritingmix and follow each other. I will have to facilitate that since I will have everyone's twitter account.

Tweet at least twice a week. Each tweet will be the summary of a scholarly article related to your thesis. Tweets cannot exceed 140 characters. This exercise takes a little bit of practice.

Reading Assignments

There is one recommended book for this course, Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*, New York: Harper Collins, 2006. Reading assignments will be either distributed in class or made available at the Grey Fine Arts Library Reading Room.