

Application for VISA Honours Thesis VISA 4F99

The Honours Thesis in Visual Arts is defined as critical, historical or creative project in an area of mutual interest to the student and the instructor. This is an independent scholarship/studio course in which the student works under the supervision of a faculty member who has agreed to take this role. The creative/academic aims and learning outcomes of a 4F99 Honours Thesis course are defined by the student, in consultation with the faculty supervisor. This course option is designed to support independent, sustained and well developed creative and/or academic work that represents critical evaluation of information and arguments, including assumptions and abstract concepts. Pursuits are generally in an area of activity not normally offered in other studio or academic courses. Students must have an average of 75 in their major and must have completed 15 credits. VISA 3F99 is a full credit course and is normally offered in the Fall Winter Term. It requires permission of the Department.

Students must apply by May 1 each year to take VISA 4F99. They can find application forms in the VISA department office – GLN 121. Applications will be evaluated by the Department Committee and those selected will be notified by the end of May.

The application must contain a 1 to 2 page proposal from the student with a clear description of what area that the student wishes to pursue; how the student plans to acquire necessary knowledge in the area; what specifically will be accomplished; the form in which the work will be presented; and how the student expects the work to be evaluated. The Honours Thesis option will normally include a significant written component. Students considering a written academic thesis alone should plan to produce a paper between 30 – 50 pages in length. The applicant must identify the VISA faculty member who has agreed to supervise this course. The application may, where appropriate, also contain up to 10 slides or digital representations of past work. Digital images should be no more than 150 ppi and no more than 1000 pixels in any dimension. Where appropriate, up to 4 digital videos and/or multimedia works can be submitted. Videos must be in QuickTime format at 640x480. Multimedia works must be a stand-alone executable file that can be opened and viewed on a Mac or PC or through a standard browser without specialized software. Digital work can be on CD or DVD. Please test all digital submissions to ensure they are operable.

The application must contain an up-to-date Program Plan from Academic Advisor. If you do not have this please make an appointment with Alisa Cunnington – acunning@brocku.ca

Brief Examples of 4F99 projects:

Study abroad in the Queen's Art History Summer School in Venice will result in an in-depth investigation of the relationship between late medieval artists such as Giotto approach the use of space as compared to those of the early and high renaissance. Specific examination in the development and use of perspectival methods and systems will be undertaken. In this course I will research and write a paper of 20 – 25 pages with annotated bibliography and produce a creative work – a painting that utilizes renaissance perspective to create a representation of public space.

Focus on an honours thesis that examines Marcel Duchamp's Large Glass in its relation to surrealism and late 20th century conceptualist practice. The thesis will include a review of relevant research and scholarship in the field; an argument and supporting methodology around how Duchamp has created precedents for conceptualist practice and a critical analysis of the contribution this perspective makes to the field. I wish to produce a thesis of 30 – 50 pages with bibliography and literature review. I will present preliminary research in a public lecture and a final thesis.

Expectations for VISA 4F99

Students selected for an Honours Tutorial will be given an override to register in this course. They will work with their faculty supervisor to outline the specific details of their course plan. It will be laid out in a Course Outline that defines the learning and work objectives; what work is to be accomplished; a schedule of student-supervisor meetings, work milestones and due dates; and a method and criteria for evaluation. This Course Outline will be filed with the Department of Visual Arts.