

**Rationale for Reconfiguring the Master of Arts in Art Curriculum (November 12, 2013)**

1. Art 5920 would replace Art 4765 (Twentieth Century American Painting and Sculpture) as one of two required art history courses for the M.A. in Art program. The existing course, Art 4765, is problematic for two reasons. First, it is a lecture course replicating some of the content of Art 4775 (Seminar in Twentieth Century Art History and Criticism), which is a required course taught in the spring semester. Second, M.A. students who received their B.F.A. degrees from EIU have often already taken Art 4765 and have instead enrolled in 3 credit hours of Independent Study. The new course, Art 5920, ensures that all M.A. students are enrolled in a common course their first semester of graduate study thus, creating a more cohesive student cohort. As a reading intensive and discussion driven course, it is more commensurate with the expectations of graduate level study. Because the purpose of the course is specifically to strengthen their skills in the areas of scholarly and creative research, critical thinking, writing, and public speaking, Art 5920 will help prepare students for both Art 4775 and for such degree requirements as both group and thesis committee critiques, and the writing of an artist statement to accompany their thesis exhibitions.

2. In light of the new Art 5920 course, it became evident that the program mission and degree requirement listings needed updating and revising. The blue copy is the approved new language. The department, at the same time, has also elected to remove the Thesis Option of the graduate degree plan (the strikethrough text). This option has not been utilized in over twenty years and is not actively pursued by the needs of contemporary graduate art students. The Non-thesis Option or "Thesis Exhibition Option" is and has been the employed degree module of choice during this timeframe. This option requires: successful completion of degree required coursework, participation in the Graduate Exhibition, a body of artwork to have been produced under the supervision of a MA graduate committee, a written artist statement, and successful completion of an oral examination at the time of the exhibition.

### **Program Mission (Catalogue Copy)**

The Master of Arts in Art program is designed to provide candidates with advanced artistic development, professional growth, and prepare candidates for further graduate study. Areas of studio art concentration include ceramics, jewelry/metalsmithing, drawing and painting, printmaking, sculpture ~~and weaving~~.

### **Program Mission (Updated Proposed Copy)**

The Master of Arts in Art is an intensive academic year program designed to mature a graduate student's development in the areas of 2-D and/or 3-D fine art. The program provides faculty guidance towards the completion of a thesis exhibition, and preparation of a professional portfolio of artwork. In support of these goals, the program offers competitive graduate assistantship awards, individual and group critiques, interactions with visiting artists, as well as visits to gallery and museum exhibitions.

### **Degree Requirements (Catalogue Copy)**

Degree requirements for all candidates include those outlined for the master's degree by the Graduate School (see "[Requirements for the Master's Degree](#)").

Candidates for the Master of Arts in Art in one of the studio art concentrations ~~may choose either a thesis (30 semester hours) or~~ non-thesis (32 semester hours) ~~option~~.

Candidates must participate in one of the annual spring graduate student exhibitions, submit an approved artist's statement one week prior to the required exhibition, and successfully pass an oral comprehensive examination of ideas, techniques, and formal solutions involved in the artworks displayed at the exhibition. A minimum of 20 slides or equivalent digital media presentations of representative graduate works, completed while at Eastern, must be submitted to the Art Department graduate program prior to the end of the spring semester in which the exhibition takes place.

### **Degree Requirements (Updated Proposed Copy)**

Degree requirements for all candidates include those outlined for the master's degree by the Graduate School (see "[Requirements for the Master's Degree](#)").

Candidates for the Master of Arts in Art in one of the studio art concentrations will complete the Thesis Exhibition (32 semester hours).

Candidates must participate in the annual spring Graduate Art Exhibition, submit an approved artist's statement one week prior to this exhibition, and pass an oral defense covering the formal, technical and conceptual aspects of the artwork exhibited. Before the end of the spring semester, candidates must submit to the Art Department a current curriculum vitae and a digital portfolio consisting of twenty representative examples of artwork completed while at Eastern Illinois University.

### **Curriculum for the 32 Semester Hour Thesis Exhibition Option**

(see footnote 1)

25 semester hours of Studio Art coursework (see footnote 2)

7 semester hours of required Art History and Graduate Exhibition coursework:

- ~~ART 4765 - Twentieth-Century American Painting and Sculpture. Credits: 3~~
- ART 4775 - Seminar in Twentieth-Century Art History and Criticism. Credits: 3
- ART 5910 - Graduate Exhibition Practice and Procedure. Credits: 1
- ART 5920 - M. A. in Art Colloquium. Credits: 3

### **Curriculum for the 30 Semester Hour Thesis Option**

(see footnote 1)

15 to 18 semester hours of Studio Art coursework (see footnote 2)

12 to 15 semester hours of required Thesis, Art History and Graduate Exhibition coursework:

- ~~ART 4765 - Twentieth-Century American Painting and Sculpture. Credits: 3~~
- ~~ART 4775 - Seminar in Twentieth-Century Art History and Criticism. Credits: 3~~
- ~~ART 5900 - Research in Art. Credits: 2~~
- ~~ART 5910 - Graduate Exhibition Practice and Procedure. Credits: 1~~
- ~~ART 5920 - M.A. in Art Colloquium. Credits: 3~~
- ART 5950 - Thesis. Credits: 3 to 6

### **Footnotes**

(footnote 1) Candidates holding graduate teaching assistantships in the Art Department will include ART 5850 Teaching Practicum in their program of study.

(footnote 2) Studio art electives are selected in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator.

**Approved by Art Dept. Curriculum Committee: 11/12/2013**

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