

Interuniversity PhD in Art History

Concordia University

Research Tutorial and Thesis Proposal Guidelines

(ARTH 820)

After the completion of their seminars, all students undertake the Research Tutorial / *Atelier de Recherche*, an intensive course of study directed by their supervisor. The tutorial is geared to the production of a thesis proposal. This is a 30 – 40 page document, double spaced, plus a bibliography.

Because of the unique character of every dissertation, both the content and format of the thesis proposal will vary from student to student, and candidates should consult closely with their supervisors in order to construct a proposal that will best meet the exigencies of their research.

While maintaining scope for diversity, however, all proposals should include the following types of information:

A description of the topic

A statement of its significance (Why is it important to undertake this study?)

A statement of objectives (What will you accomplish?)

A description of your *corpus*, or the body of material you will be studying (e.g. artworks, artefacts, archival documents, written texts)

A discussion of your methodology, including research methods and theoretical framework

A discussion of the intellectual context for your work, including how your research relates to existing scholarship

A thesis plan

A combined bibliography -- including annotations on the twenty most significant sources for your research, and standard bibliographic references for the remaining sources. Primary and secondary sources should be distinguished. The annotations and bibliography are not included in the 30 – 40 page limit.

Once the supervisor has approved the thesis proposal, it should be circulated to the other members of the student's advisory committee, who may request changes or add recommended readings to the bibliography. Once agreed on by all parties, the bibliography and proposal establish the framework for the comprehensive examinations.

The grade for the Research Tutorial is determined by the supervisor, and communicated to the Department Assistant who will complete a grade report form.