

DISSERTATION: MASTERS

MA in MEDIA ARTS PHILOSOPHY & PRACTICE *theory without practice is blind; practice without theory, empty*
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COURSE CODE:	MEDS 1055	SCHOOL:	Humanities
Course Title:	Dissertation	Effective Term:	May – Sept 30 of the year in which the Student is set to graduate.
Coordinator:	Professor Golding and/or Primary Supervisor		
General Level:	M	Credit:	60
Department:	CCCS Dept of Creative, Critical and Communication Studies		

Specific Entry Requirements: Qualified to undergo the Dissertation

Introduction and Rationale:

A student may choose, upon entry into the Programme, a traditional style Dissertation (15,000 words) OR may embark on a Practice-based Research Project + write up of the Research (8,000-10,000 + Arts based research Project). In either case, the Dissertation component will demonstrate a Masters level grasp of the range of theories and methodologies within the field of visual/acoustic culture.

The Dissertation represents the MA element of the award and represent the defining stage in the development and consolidation of the student's work undertaken throughout the Supervised and/or taught period leading up to the Dissertation. The Dissertation component of the Masters Programme forms a significant proportion of the Degree.

Context

- The traditional style Dissertation (15,000 words). This route aims to test a student's ability and performance in the recognition, formulation, execution and writing up of a specific research area. The Dissertation itself aims to give students maximum experience in working independently on a single medium size project under a Primary Supervisor and one-two (1-2) Mentors (called: the Supervisor Team). The Primary Supervisor will be drawn from the CCCS/CCMS Department/Research Activity Group; one of the two Mentors may be drawn from within the University and/or approved linked institution. The exact nature of the Dissertation will differ depending on the area in which the student chooses to focus (ie, video, film, art history, e-Gaming, philosophy of art, critical studies, radio, analogue, digital and electronic arts, the plastic arts, performance, music composition)
 - The practice-based Research Dissertation Project + write up (8,000-10,000 words) + Research Arts based project. This route aims enable the student to gain advanced research ability in a chosen artistic area/competency. The Research Dissertation project is meant to be an engaged relation with one's production without knowing beforehand to what end the research/art project will evolve. This is a *research project* and not a set piece of work waiting to be executed (for this purpose, the student is directed to the course Option: *Independent Research Study*). The write up should encompass the discovery of the process and the logic of the pathway(s) taken to achieve the kind of result one is able to produce, and it should clearly demonstrate in what way or ways the Dissertation Research Project is an expression of having mastered the field. The Research (Arts-based) Project is not meant as a 'model' of the text nor is the text necessarily meant to be presented as an 'explanation' of the piece itself.
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Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the Programme, the student will

- be able to compose for themselves a series of research questions based on a review of the existing literature, and the appropriate theoretical material (evidenced in the written component of the Dissertation);
- will know how to design either an appropriate method of data collection or a strategy for accessing literature based data or secondary source material. They will understand how to pre-test or pilot the instrument if appropriate. The Dissertation Research Project, write-up and or traditional style Dissertation will provide evidence;
- will understand and be able to demonstrate independence in research practices and in reflection with the Dissertation component of this Degree;
- will understand the way or ways in which their area of interest collects data and codes them appropriately, or how to organise theoretical or secondary source material in a an appropriate manner;
- will know how to present the data or literature with critical commentary and be able to relate the material to the research questions;
- will understand and demonstrate the ability EITHER to present a piece of written work of no more than 15,000 words for a traditional route Dissertation (including notes and bibliography, excluding all appendices) based on independent research; OR to present a piece of artwork Dissertation Research project + write up of no more than 10,000 words (including notes and bibliography, excluding all appendices), based on independent, in depth research;
- the student will be able to draw conclusions and make suggestions for further work, showing understanding of their material commensurate with the a post-graduate Masters level in the complex and interdisciplinary field of Critical Studies, New Media and the Practising Arts.

Indicative Content: To be determined in consultation with the Student's Supervisor and Advisory team. The initial state of the research will be completed in the Research Methods Seminar via the student's Dissertation Proposal Outline.

Assessment Details:

Methods of Assessment	Grading Mode	Weighting %	Minimum Pass Mark	Words Length	Outline Details
EITHER: Traditional Dissertation OR Dissertation Research Project + research write-up		100% OR 20-40% + 60-80%	40%	15,000 8,000-10,000	Depending on media used (film, video, painting, performance, etc)