

HART 398/Senior Conference I

Professors Houghteling and McKee

Final Assignment: Senior Thesis Proposal

Due on Moodle by Tuesday, December 16, 12:30pm

Your final thesis proposal will be in essay form. While it will systematically address the following points and include the following information, it should not read like a checklist. Please do your best to incorporate the following points into a fluid narrative of your thesis. Please review your four previous writing assignments completed for this class and use them as a departure point for the final proposal.

Body of proposal:

1. The proposal should have a title, even if it is provisional.
2. Articulate the subject/topic of your thesis and its structuring argument and/or questions.
3. Provide background/history/motivation/inspiration for your thesis topic/project.
4. Delineate specific approaches and/or methods or a theoretical framework that you will deploy/employ (drawing upon authors, texts, and concepts that you have encountered in coursework, in independent work, and in Senior Conference).
5. Demonstrate the ways that these ideas grow out of/relate to/are manifest in visual evidence; illustrate and analyze specific works of art (at least 3).
6. Indicate aspects of research, planning, or writing that you have completed thus far.
7. Provide the name(s) of faculty member(s) with whom you have spoken about your project (or indicate that you have not yet spoken to anyone and why).
8. Propose the faculty member(s) who you would like to have serve as your potential advisor and the reasons why (please know that we will try to honor as many requests as possible while at the same time balancing out workload and assessing areas of expertise)
9. Indicate your plans for further research and provide a rough timeline for the completion of your thesis, with an eye to beginning drafting your thesis early in the spring semester and producing a final draft for submission in late April. If you plan to undertake any first hand research of works of art in exhibitions or collections, indicate where and when this will happen.

Back matter of proposal (with proper bibliographic/citational form using Chicago Style):

1. Provide an annotated bibliography (2-3 sentences per entry) with a minimum of 8-10 sources (these can, of course, repeat what you submitted before Thanksgiving, but ideally, to show how your research has progressed, will include an additional 3-4 new annotated sources). These should be sources you have read carefully and are confident will be part of your bibliography for the thesis project.
2. Also include an additional (unannotated) bibliography of sources you have not yet read but have reason to believe will be of use in your research and that you plan to consult.
3. Provide at least three (and no more than five) images that are central to your thesis and furnish them with captions and a brief description of their significance to the thesis.

Formatting guidelines:

The thesis proposal essay should be 3 to 5 double-spaced pages (1" margins, 12 point font). This does not include the annotated bibliography, which will vary in length depending on the number of sources you cite (please remember that annotations for bibliographic items should be brief – ideally not more than 3-5 sentences – and should focus on the most important aspect of a given source for your thesis). Remember: citations and bibliography should be rendered in Chicago Style.