



December 11, 2015

Dear Meg,

The History of Art Department has for several years now been exploring the possibility of offering a Master's degree in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practice. Both nationally and internationally, interest in curatorial studies programs, particularly in those geared toward contemporary art, has been growing steadily. In designing our their program in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practice, the OSU History of Art faculty looked very closely at the College Art Association (CAA) guidelines, as well as at the existing MA programs that would be in competition with theirs.

During their three years in the program, students will take a minimum of 61 credit hours, broken down into the following categories:

- Core courses: 24 hours (four courses of which are new)
History of Art 7015 was unanimously approved, History of Art 7189 was sent back for more information since the proposal seemed more like a practicum than a course. HA 7999 (Curatorial Thesis Writing) and HA 7191 (Curatorial Internship) have not been submitted yet.
- History of Art (including Curatorial) electives: 25-28 hours (one course is new)
HA 7020 is a new elective course that was unanimously approved
- Theory Elective: 3 hours
- Law/Public Policy/Arts Administration electives: 9 hours

Although they realize that 61 is an unusually large number of hours for an MA program, it is neither unprecedented, especially for a three-year program (the MFA in Art, for example, requires a minimum of 72 hours) nor unwarranted. Students will effectively be getting two degrees, in that they'll have done the coursework equivalent of a Master's in art history plus additional work specifically targeted to curatorial practice. Given the College Art Association's recommendation that curatorial programs be designed in such a way that, upon graduation, students have the option of continuing on to the PhD, they had little choice but to require approximately 30 hours of art history coursework (the minimum for the History of Art MA), thereby bringing the total for the Curatorial Practice Program to 61.

This MA program was unanimously approved and the committee found this proposal to be well-researched and compelling. We expect that it will be extremely successful.

Sincerely,

Janice m. Aski
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