

DEPARTMENT of FINE ARTS and ART HISTORY

## Notes on the Thesis Proposal

Please find the policy and procedure on the MA Thesis Proposal and MA Thesis in the 'General University Academic Information' of the Graduate Catalogue. The most up-to-date version of which can be found on the AUB Registrar's website.

Thesis Proposals are submitted via [AUB's Online Petition Filing System](#), where you'll find a petition called 'Proposal'.

Proposals must be approved by the Thesis Committee, Department Chair, and the Graduate Studies Committee. If students want to qualify for GFAP coverage of AHIS 399 Graduate Thesis they must be submitted by deadlines set by the FAS Dean's Office, at the end of September (for Fall) or mid February (for Spring). Alongside this GFAP deadline, other Graduate Thesis deadlines are on the website of the University Graduate Council: [here](#).

Thesis Proposals should be a maximum 2,000 words. They should demonstrate there is a viable topic and research plan. However, it is a *proposal*, it is not definitive or conclusive and it is reasonable that it should acknowledge avenues for growth and learning. Every good research project develops in the process. Students and committees should expect and allow for plans to change.

Please note that this is a template and a guide. The Thesis Committee, Department Chair and Graduate Studies Committee determines if the Proposal is sufficient for them to vote to approve it. Individual committee members might require very different things. The MA Program requires the committee members meet with the student before the Proposal is submitted. It is best to discuss it with them and get their informal approval before you submit the Thesis Proposal in the Petition System for their formal approval.

**Please find below a template for the Thesis Proposal.**

# Thesis Proposal

## Student Name:

Please state your name and ID number here

## Title:

Please state the proposed thesis title here

## Committee (at least three professorial members)

1. Thesis Supervisor:
2. Thesis Reader:
3. Thesis Reader:

Please include their formal academic title (these are: lecturer, senior lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor) and add extra members as appropriate. If members are from outside AUB, please state their institutional affiliation.

## Expected Date of Defence

Please state the date here.

## Abstract

### Subject & Scope

Please state the subject and scope of your research. Consider the geographic and chronological parameters you will work within, and the body of artworks that you will cover.

### Objectives

Please state here:

- what is the problem that your research hopes to address. This might be understood as a contradiction, complication, omission or error of theory or of history.
- what is your thesis, the conclusion that you expect to arrive at. This is the resolution, explanation or account of the problem that helps us better understand the issue(s).
- why does this matter?

### Literature & Methods

Please state here:

- what the literature on the topic has already said and how the thesis aims to engage with this literature.
- what historical and theoretical methodologies or paradigms you intend to use and why these are well adapted to addressing your objectives.

For the Curatorial Thesis: you should have a plausible plan for what to exhibit, how, where and when. You should indicate the type, or methods of curatorial project and indicate why this is well-suited to your objectives. You may need to address sources of funding for your exhibition.

## Outline

Please describe each section in sequence as you expect them to appear in the final work. Include expected deadlines for each of these and expected word counts. Note that editing the sections into a cohesive and finished whole can take as long as writing entire sections. These deadlines should lead up to the Expected Date of Defence above. Please include a final estimated word count.

For the Curatorial Thesis: Your outline should include space for a reflective consideration of the exhibition after the fact. What worked well and what less well, how you might do things differently and further thoughts on the exhibition.

AHIS 399 Graduate Thesis is a six-credit course. Consequently a final word count should be within the word limits below:

Art History Thesis: around 30,000 words (maximum 40,000)

Curatorial Thesis: around 15,000 words (maximum 20,000) and an exhibition.

## Bibliography:

Please include a bibliography formatted in the Chicago Style. It should be ten to twenty items long and include the major texts on the topic.