

Independent Projects

Critical Writing and Research

In order to earn full credit for a research project, you must complete:

- one-page proposal describing the scope of the project and your approach to the subject matter. This should be focused on identifying the key intellectual crux of your argument (the “so what”) and on how the topic relates to the themes of the program. **DUE End of week 2**
- annotated bibliography (Elizabeth will provide a separate handout on this), containing at least 5 secondary sources (books or articles from peer reviewed journals)
- a complete draft, with footnotes or endnotes, by week 7
- a final version, with cover letter, by week 9

You must have your topic approved by Elizabeth before beginning your research, and the topic should have something to do with the intersection of religion and visual culture. Your paper should be approximately 25 pages in length. At the end of the quarter, you will present a brief summary of your work to the program; we expect you to pay significant attention to the format of this presentation, using visual aids and engaging with your audience when appropriate. These are critical writing projects, and should be suitably professional in tone and the sophistication of the research—depending on your writing skill level, however, Elizabeth is also willing to work with you to incorporate creative/experimental features into your final product.

Visual Art and Research

In order to earn full credit for a research project, you must complete:

- 1-page prospectus describing the scope of the project: medium or artistic form you intend to pursue, the materials or formal elements of the object or images; some evidence of your visual research into images or works that are related to your proposed project (similar in medium, technique, function, context or imagery, etc.). Your proposal will make clear how your project is related to some aspect of the program inquiry. **DUE End of week 1**
- annotated bibliography containing of both art historical and visual research. **Due week 1/ongoing**
- An artist’s statement/reflective essay indicating what you learned, how you addressed your proposal **Due in final portfolio week 10.**
- Final project portfolio **Due in final portfolio week 10.**

You must have your topic approved by Lisa before beginning your project. The work should have a clear relationship the intersection of religion and visual culture, and draw on the forms we have covered in the fall quarter (though your ‘style’ does not have to look medieval or renaissance). *You should develop a project that will fill your time, on average 24 hours of work per week.* Some possibilities include: type setting and binding a small edition of books, exploring alternative book bindings of the era, creating a cycle of prints based on indulgences, etc.

Project Roundtable Meetings

Students will participate in weekly peer-review workshops to present their developing independent projects, discuss their sources for research or artistic projects and respond to feedback on the project. These meetings are intended to help you maintain focus on your project while also taking advantage of the suggestions and support of a learning community that is familiar with the historical and theoretical ideas you may be pursuing. It is also an opportunity for members of the community to learn from your work.