

Instructor: Dr. Kurt Rahmlow

E-mail: Please use the messaging system on Canvas

Office hours: By appointment; please contact me to set up a meeting

**ART 3996.001:
Honors College Mentored Research Experience**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Research experience conducted by an Honors student with at least junior standing under the supervision of a faculty member. May only be taken once for Honors College credit. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Honors College; at least junior class status; permission of Honors College dean.

COURSE CONTENT: This is a directed study of prints produced by female German artists during the first decades of the 20th century. The course will consist of independent research and discussions focused on works depicting maternal figures and personifications of death. The student will be required to complete a series of reading assignments and participate in biweekly meetings with the instructor. The student will also be expected to produce a series of research-based assignments that will ultimately culminate in a 20- to 25-page research paper.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. To trace images of maternal figures and personifications of death in the work of female German printmakers associated with the Expressionist movement.
2. To develop research skills at an advanced undergraduate level.
3. To develop skills of analysis and critical thinking at an advanced undergraduate level.
4. To develop writing skills at an advanced undergraduate level.
5. To develop the skills necessary to organizing and carrying through a major research project.

Course Textbooks

There are no textbooks for this course. Readings will be identified and chosen as our conversation develops over the course of the semester—as a result of consultation between the student and the instructor.

Using “Canvas”

I will post a number of important documents to the course website on “Canvas,” including this syllabus, informational sheets and handouts, and numerous reading assignments. I will also post your grades on this site, and I will ask you to turn your writing assignments in electronically using its Turnitin function. You will be using the discussion board, as well. You can access “Canvas” by following these steps:

1. Go to the UNT homepage.

2. Click on the Canvas link.
3. Log in to the system using your EUID and password.

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation—20% of final grade

Bibliography—10% of final grade

Project Proposal—10% of final grade

Project Outline—10% of final grade

Complete First Draft of Research Paper—10% of final grade

Research Paper (20 to 25 pages)—40% of final grade

Attendance and Participation

Directed studies are, by definition, intensive educational experiences. They place a great deal of responsibility upon students to read assigned texts thoroughly, as well as to help carry discussion during weekly meetings. As a consequence, attendance and timely “arrival” are mandatory, and I will be taking attendance. If a student cannot commit to attending biweekly meetings, or if the student expects to regularly be late to meetings, this arrangement will not work. I will be expecting the student to be taking this course seriously, as a part of her professional preparation. If she should miss more than half a class meeting, she will be counted absent. It is expected that the student will not miss any weekly meetings, unless the meeting is formally rescheduled in advance, or with a documented legitimate reason for missing the meeting due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances. Any absences that are not rescheduled and made up will result in lowering of the student’s final attendance/participation grade by 10 points.

It is *mandatory* that the student arrive having carefully prepared the day’s assignments. I cannot emphasize this last point enough. This means that she must read the day’s assignments closely, making written notes about items of interest, points of critique, possible connections to other materials that we have covered, etc. During our meeting, I will expect the student to draw from her preparation and participate in the discussion actively and productively. If the student does not actively and substantively contribute to discussions during meetings, she should expect that her attendance/participation grade will be adversely affected.

Finally, please be aware that I hold the student to appropriate standards of **collegiality** and decorum. The free exchange of ideas requires that we respect each other and listen carefully to one another. Please feel free to disagree with an interpretation and debate ideas with me. I do ask, however, that she refrain from insulting or abusive language.

Bibliography

The student will prepare a preliminary bibliography of at least 20 relevant and **scholarly** books and essays. We will draw from this document in scheduling the reading assignments for the remainder of the semester.

Project Proposal

The student will submit a proposal of 300-500 words. Proposals must present a well-developed concept for the project and talk it through in terms that indicate a clear, if preliminary, sense of direction (see below). Proposals will need to include a working thesis and a clear indication of the work/s that will serve as the focus/foci of the project. I will be providing an assignment sheet

later in the semester that will outline the specific requirements regarding this task.

Project Outline

The student will submit a detailed preliminary outline of the project. The outline should clearly identify not just the major divisions of the project but it should also be clear about the content of those divisions (as an example, not just “Body Paragraph I,” but “Body Paragraph I: The history of death imagery in Weimar Germany”). I will be providing an assignment sheet later in the semester that will outline the specific requirements regarding this task.

First Draft of Research Paper

The student will write a carefully-researched and well-argued essay of 20-25 pages on the topic identified in her proposal. The project must be object-driven (focused firmly on a specific works of art), and the topic must be approved in consultation with the professor. Be prepared to submit a complete draft of your paper (with all the fixin’s) on the date listed below on the course schedule for First Draft of Research Paper. This will be graded as a complete essay, so please give it your best effort. Just to be clear on this: If you only turn in 10 pages, you cannot score above a 50. I will be providing an assignment sheet later in the semester that will outline the specific requirements regarding this task.

Final Draft of Research Paper

Having received feedback on a complete first draft, the student will revise her work and submit a new and improved final draft of her project on the date listed on the course syllabus. The requirements stipulated for the first draft, of course, still apply, with one exception: Expectations will be higher for the final draft. My concern in looking over the first draft will be degree of completion. My concern in scoring the final draft will be quality of work. Please note: In order to receive Honors College credit for the course, the student will need to submit the final draft of the project both to me and to the Honors College before the deadline stipulated by the Honors College. It is the student's responsibility to insure that this happens.

Late and Missed Assignments

All late major assignments will be penalized **10 points for every calendar day** they are late. If the student misses a submission deadline for a major assignment for a legitimate and *unexpected* reason, and she has a legitimate, documented excuse, then she is required to notify me **within 24 hours**. If she is experiencing difficulties that she believes will interfere with her ability to complete an assignment on time, I ask that she notify me *in advance* of the due date so that we can discuss the situation.

Resubmission of Work Originally Done for Other Courses

All written work must be original to this section of this course, unless the instructor approves of resubmission. That is, you may not submit a paper, discussion post, part of an essay, etc. that you originally wrote to submit to another course unless you clear it with me first. If you do resubmit material without permission, you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

Grading Scale

Your final grade in this course will appear on your transcript as a straight letter grade, without a “+” or a “-.” However, individual assignments will be scored as follows:

A+	97-100
A	94-96
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86

B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73

University and Departmental Policies

Plagiarism and Cheating

I shouldn't have to talk about such things at this level, but please note: I feel *very* strongly about this. *Please* do not do this in my course. It would embarrass us both, and it would make me feel stressed out, disappointed, and depressed. If I catch you cheating or plagiarizing, I will certainly fail you for the assignment, possibly for the course, and report you for disciplinary action. Please take pride in your abilities and your work and give this class your best honest effort. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please see me. In general, if you use someone else's **words or ideas**, you must acknowledge that you are borrowing them, usually by citing your source—you may not pass them off as your own. In addition, if you accept so much assistance on a project that the work is no longer substantially your own, you have cheated. Put simply, just bear in mind that your responsibility in this course is to earn your score by virtue of your own best effort.

Students with Disabilities

The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Access (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 202 of Sage Hall. You also may call the ODA at 940-565-4323.

Course Schedule

08/19: Course planning

09/02: Bibliography Due, online submission (submit on Canvas by 5:00 pm, and we'll choose readings from that document)

09/16: Reading and discussion

Reading: TBD

09/30: Reading and discussion—also, how to write a proposal

Reading: TBD

10/07: No meeting; Project Proposal Due, online submission, by 5:00 pm

10/14: Discuss proposal and possible reading

Reading: TBD

10/28: Outline Due; discuss outline and possible reading

Reading: TBD

11/11: No meeting; First Draft of Project Due (I'll provide electronic feedback by 11/16)

11/18: Discuss draft

12/02: Final Draft of Project Due, online submission, by 5:00 pm

***The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus, as required.**