

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

SCHOOLS OF MEDIA ARTS
BDM HONOURS 2003

General Information March 2003

Introduction The BDM Honours programme is a full-time year of study and follows on from the final year undergraduate BDM, in which students began to take on board long-form projects. Emphasis is placed upon a year long project of research with the understanding that students are to be self-reliant and wholly committed to their programme of study through two consecutive sessions.

Structure and requirements of the course

Supervision Each student has a member of the teaching staff, usually from the relevant study area, allocated as their supervisor. This is not necessarily the same member of staff for each session. Consultations between staff and students will take place at mutually agreed intervals and *it is important to ensure that all appointment times are kept*. An average expectation is for three group and three individual consultations in each session. It is not possible for students to elect their supervisor.

Dates for General BDM Honours meetings

- 1st Hons Meeting – Monday March 10th at 3pm, Location ELCC
- 2nd Hons Meeting – Monday 7 April 3.30pm, Location TBC
- 3rd Hons Meeting – Monday 5 May 3.30pm, Location TBC

Honours Studio Practice There are no formal classes for BDM Honours students, but it is expected that clear evidence in the form of work in progress characterise all students' presence in the studios, demonstrating self-motivation and independent practice. No

assessment mark is given at the end of session 1 but a grade of SY (satisfactory) or UF (unsatisfactory) with SY interpreted as credit level (65%) and above, is necessary to proceed to session 2. At the end of Session 2 the same SY or UF is given before proceeding to exhibition.

Mid-year review If possible the School of Media Arts will conduct a mid-year review of each Honours student's work by an external practitioner. The purpose of the review is advisory and no grading is recorded. In recent years within the BFA Honours, this practice has proved to be enormously beneficial to students' development. Therefore, the expectation is that everyone will avail themselves of this opportunity to discuss their work. It will most likely be scheduled for the start of session 2 but could occur during the mid-year recess.

Honours Paper As a further requirement of the course each student must research, write and submit an Honours Paper of approximately 5,000 words by the set deadline. In consultation with their supervisor students will select a subject for research that is related to or directly informs their practice. The following draft deadlines have been developed to synchronise with and benefit from the requirement to attend the Research Methods class, SOMA 4030 (see below).

<i>Session 1</i>	<i>week 11</i>	Preliminary outline due, approximately 1,500 words, marked by a Research Methods class lecturer as SY or UF. Also read by supervisor, feedback given and problems identified.
<i>Session 2</i>	<i>week 5</i>	Draft of Research Paper due, feedback in Research Methods class by lecturers.
<i>Session 2</i>	<i>week 10</i>	Honours Paper due. Research Methods class ends, paper read and marked by two lecturers.

Overdue Honours Papers will incur a penalty at the rate of two marks per day late to be deducted from the final mark for the paper up to a maximum of seven days, after which it becomes inadmissible. Any writing problems and or editorial difficulties should be identified early and remedied by the student. Correction of poor grammar, spelling and syntax is not the responsibility of readers or assessors.

Research Methods Attendance at this class is a requirement for the Honours programme and will greatly assist in the preparation, structure and presentation of the finished Honours Paper. Held on Thursday between 3pm and 5pm in room E101, the class looks at research methodologies pertinent to arts practice and is conducted by Dr. Perter Hill, School of History/Theory and Martin Sims, School of Art. Attendance is assessed as either SY or UF with SY interpreted as pass level (50%) or above.

Media Arts Research Seminar program The M.A.R.S. program will run four times per session on Wednesday evenings from 6-9pm (with variations) in F116. This is a forum of presentations and discussion by post-graduate Masters and PhD students. *Honours students are strongly recommended to attend this forum.* Please see the end of this document for the current schedule.

Final Assessment Procedures All course requirements must have been satisfactorily completed prior to final assessment. *Honours Studio Practice* will be assessed in the context of a presentation of the completed studio research work shown as part of the annual graduating students' exhibitions. Each student's presentation will be assessed by a panel of assessors one of whom will be an external examiner. Each assessor provides a numerical mark from a maximum 100 and these are averaged to constitute a final mark for studio practice, which represents 75% of the total mark.

Two copies of the *Honours Paper* should be submitted to the Research Methods class lecturers in a completed form by the date due in week 10 of session 2 having met all previous requirements. The paper will be read by two lecturers but not the student's

supervisor and where assessment marks differ by a margin greater than 10 a third reader will be used. Each assessor provides a numerical mark from a maximum 100 and these are averaged to constitute a final mark for the Honours Paper, which represents 25% of the total mark. To assist external examiners in their appraisal of a student's studio practice, Honours Papers are sent to them for reading in advance of final assessment but no mark is given. One copy of the Honours Paper will be retained by the Schools of Media Arts, the other copy will be lodged in the COFA library.

External Assessors The Schools of Media Arts will engage external examiners from universities in the wider Sydney metropolitan region. This includes Independent contributions from staff at Newcastle School of Fine Art, Sydney College of The Arts, The University of Technology Sydney and the University of Western Sydney, Nepean.

Additional Information

Head, School of Media Arts Phil George p.george@unsw.edu.au, Ph: 9385 0697

BDM Honours Coordinator: Andy Polaine, a.polaine@unsw.edu.au, Ph: 9385 0781

BDM Honours Supervisors: John Colette, j.colette@unsw.edu.au, Ph: 9385 0656

Simon Hunt, s.hunt@unsw.edu.au, Ph: 9385 0657

Student email addresses Honours students are required to access their university email address regularly for all communications relating to their time on course. Personal email addresses are not recognised for posting official notices. Only under exceptional circumstances will conventional postal services be used to convey information. All students are encouraged to access the *Phorum board* sites via the college website for peer group communications and other important information.

Attendance All students enrolled in the Bachelor of Digital Media Honours degree commit to one year of full-time study. Accordingly the expectation is for a responsible attitude

towards attendance and an appropriate level of participation in all formal requirements of the course. Attendance sheets are to be signed at both the Research Methods Class. This record of involvement is a proven reflection of a student's overall performance during the year.

Marks and grades The following schedule shows numerical and equivalent grades.

85	100	High Distinction	Honours Class 1
75	84	Distinction	Honours Class 2 Level 1
65	74	Credit	Honours Class 2 Level2

For marks below 65 the degree of Honours is not awarded.

Problems and difficulties Any student experiencing adverse circumstances affecting their progress during the Honours year should advise their supervisor - in confidence - as soon as practicably possible.

Media Arts Research Seminar

2003

SCHOOL OF MEDIA ARTS

Duration: Session One: 4 weeks x 2 seminars @ 1 hour max (30 min presentation + 15 min feedback)
1st presentation - 6.15pm start. Break - 7pm 2nd presentation - 7.15pm start.

Day/Location: WEDNESDAY 6- 9pm F116

Aim: This Media Arts Research Seminar Program is offered to PhD, MFA and Hons candidates as additional/supplementary support of their research projects. Master of Arts students are also invited to attend.

It provides an ongoing forum for the presentation of Postgraduate research in progress, the discussion of issues and procedures common to research in the Media Arts, and the dissemination of information and ideas relevant to Media Arts research candidates.

Prescribed texts: Individual bibliographies are prepared by research candidates with the guidance and assistance of their supervisors. Two copies are to be made. One will be lodged at the Circulation Desk in the Library for Closed Reserve, file name: MARS program; for any interested students to access. The other copy to be left with MARS co-ordinator at the presentation.

SESSION 1 2003

MARS INTRO SESSION	DATE & NAME
	WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Induction and introduction to School of Media Arts (current SOMA PHD, MFA, HONS Research Postgraduate) course for all new and existing candidates supervised within School of Media Arts. Brief introduction to all supervising Academic Staff/Adjunct Professors and Head of School.• Outline of non-compulsory Media Arts Research Seminar Presentations and level of expectations of research presentations etc.	
• SEMINAR 1 WEEK 2 7- 8pm Postgraduate Research Candidate Presentation 1 <i>Empyrean - soft skinned space</i> Becoming Avatar in Multiuser Online Virtual Reality environments. critical feedback + questions	Melinda Rackham Phd Candidate - Virtual Media 15 minutes +
• SEMINAR 2 WEEK 5 6 - 8 pm • Postgraduate Research Candidate Presentation 2 critical feedback + questions	WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL Penny Fowler-Smith PhD candidate - TBA 15 minutes
• Postgraduate Research Candidate Presentation 3 critical feedback + questions	BREAK - 7pm - 7.15pm 15 minutes
• SEMINAR 3 WEEK 9 6 - 8 pm Postgraduate Research Candidate Presentation 4 <i>Vanishing point</i> speculations regarding photography, from distance to duration critical feedback + questions	WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY Ryszard Dabek MFA candidate - Photomedia 15 minutes
• Postgraduate Research Candidate Presentation 5 critical feedback + questions	BREAK - 7pm - 7.15pm 30 minutes 15 minutes

• **SEMINAR 4**

WEEK 12

6 - 8 pm

WEDNESDAY 28th MAY

Postgraduate Research Candidate Presentation 6

gathering the Landing

critical feedback + questions

Bronia Ivanbrook

MFA candidate - Photomedia
15 minutes

BREAK - 7pm - 7.15pm

• **Postgraduate Research Candidate Presentation 7**

critical feedback + questions

30 minutes

15 minutes