MFA CRITIQUE, ADVISING AND THESIS STRUCTURE FOR 2013-2014:

ADVISING:

Students are required to sign up for an individual studio visit with all in residence faculty at least twice over the course of the academic year. One of those visits must take place in the Fall. Students should limit their meetings with each faculty person to a maximum of two per quarter. Please visit the DOVA Wiki to see which faculty are in residence and to sign up for appointments.

It is the student’s responsibility to sign up for meetings in a timely manner. The faculty are not obligated to create additional appointments if their schedule is full.

QUARTER-END CRITIQUES:

Fall:
The department will hold a public, quarter-end critique for first year students at the end of Fall quarter; all MFA (first and second year) students are required to attend. All of the faculty will attend, as schedules allow. Please see the departmental calendar for the date of this critique.

Students will also present their work throughout the quarter in the critique class (ARTV 40000 02; see below for details).

Winter:
The department will hold a public, quarter-end critique for second year students at the end of the Winter quarter; all MFA (first and second year) students are required to attend. All of the faculty will attend, as schedules allow. Please see the departmental calendar for the date of this critique.

Students will also present their work throughout the quarter in the critique class (ARTV 40000 02; see below for details).

Spring:
Second year students will be reviewed at their group thesis exhibitions; all faculty will attend, as schedules allow. Only the faculty and the student being reviewed will be present at these reviews.

The department will also hold a public, quarter-end critique for first year students at the end of Spring quarter; all MFA (first and second year) students are required to attend. All faculty will also attend, as schedules allow. Please see the departmental calendar for the date of this critique.

GRADUATE STUDIO PROJECT (ARTV 40000 section 01 and ARTV 40000 section 02):

Fall and Winter quarters:
Every Fall and Winter quarter, a faculty person will teach ARTV 40000, section 02 (Graduate Studio Project, aka "studio hours") as a formal course for all first and second year students. The course will be organized as a weekly critique. The faculty person teaching the class will invite outside guests and other faculty to attend the critiques as needed. The course will also serve as a potential venue for all faculty, students and staff to gather for discussion and/or larger group critiques, if needed.
The pass/fail grade that students receive for ARTV 40000 02 in the Fall and Winter quarter will be determined by their attendance, participation and performance in the class.

In the Fall quarter, all faculty will attend the critique class during second week. Three or four second year students will be chosen by lottery to present their work.

ARTV 40000 section 01 will also be offered every quarter. ARTV 40000 section 01 is a means for students to receive academic credit for the independent work they do in their studios. There is no formal class for students enrolled in section 01 to attend. The DGS assigns a pass/fail grade for ARTV 40000 section 01 in consultation with the full faculty, and based on participation in individual studio visits and quarter-end critiques, and attendance at OPC lectures and other departmental events.

In the Fall and Winter, students who are not taking an elective and who therefore have room in their schedule for additional studio hours will register for section 01 in addition to section 02.

Please see the Sample Course Schedule for MFA students below for further explanation of how 40000 section 01 and 02 are scheduled.

Spring quarter:
In the Spring, all students will take at least 100 hours of ARTV 40000 01. The DGS assigns a pass/fail grade for ARTV 40000 section 01 in consultation with the full faculty, and based on participation in individual studio visits and quarter-end critiques, and attendance at OPC lectures and other departmental events.

MFA SEMINARS:
All students are required to take the MFA seminar in Fall, Winter, and Spring of their first year. The course number is ARTV 39200.

ELECTIVES:
Students are required to take a total of six electives. At least three must originate in departments outside of DoVA. Students may take more than three of their electives outside the department if they so choose. Electives can also be fulfilled with Independent Study (ARTV 39700). Please contact Alison with any questions about selecting elective courses.

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR MFA STUDENTS:

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<th>first year of MFA program:</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>40000 02 (R)</td>
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<td>MFA seminar (R)</td>
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<th>second year of MFA program:</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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Please note that courses marked with “R” are required, meaning that they must be taken in the quarter indicated. Students may choose when to schedule their electives, and they also have flexibility in scheduling three of the five sections of 40000 01 that are required for the MFA.

**FACULTY CONTACTS:**

Students are encouraged to bring their questions to Alison or the DGS, who can refer them to the appropriate faculty member as needed. Students are also free to ask academic and advising questions of any of the faculty.

**MFA ABSTRACT AND COMMITTEES (SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS ONLY):**

The DGS will create two person faculty committees (taking student requests into account). Each of these committees will work with two or three second year MFA students.

The MFA Abstract should be a 1000 word abstract of the student’s project and work. It should be clear, concise, and written for a general audience. The following should be taken into account:

1. Include references to three major influences on your work. These influences might be historical events, things in the world, or work coming from other disciplines.
2. Trace the arc of your work over time letting us know how your work has come to be what it is now.
3. Describe the physical and visual character of your work, that is, its formal structure.
4. How do you believe that your work generates meaning for those who experience it? How does the formal character of the work intersect its meaning?
5. How do you see your work placed in the flow of art history? Do you feel that you need to carve out something new in that history, expand on what’s already been done, or do very well something that is already well articulated by others?

This list of five subjects need not be addressed in order, and your response to these questions may be woven together.

A meeting schedule will be established by each committee early in the fall quarter. The students provide the entire group (students and faculty) with their writings one week in advance of meeting times. Meetings happen according to the following suggested schedule:

- Week four of Fall quarter
- Week nine of Fall quarter
- Week five of Winter quarter
- Week nine of Winter quarter

The final version is due to the committee and to Alison the first week of the Spring quarter and will be distributed to the entire faculty.
In consultation with their committee, students may also pursue an optional second MFA paper/writing project, the contours of which are open. The second paper would not replace the 1000 word abstract; it would be an additional piece of writing developed and directed by the student.

One of these two pieces of writing will be kept in the archives of the University library and posted on DOVA’s wiki.