MFA CRITIQUE, ADVISING AND THESIS STRUCTURE FOR 2012-2013:

**Advising:**

Students are required to sign up for an individual studio visit with all 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.

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.

**Fall:**

The department will hold a public, quarter-end critique for first year students; all MFA (first and second year) students are required to attend. All of the faculty will attend, as schedules allow. All second year students will present work during the MFA Critique class held on Tuesday evenings throughout the fall quarter. (This course is described below.)

**Winter:**

The department will hold a public, quarter-end critique, curated by the instructor of the Winter section of 40000 02, that may include a mix of first and second year students. All MFA (first and second year) students are required to attend. All of the faculty will attend, as schedules allow. Students will also be presenting work during the MFA Critique class held on Tuesday Evenings throughout the winter quarter.

**Spring:**

Second year students will be reviewed at their group thesis exhibitions; all faculty will attend, as schedules allow. Each exhibition group will decide if they would like the first year students present at their review, or if they would prefer to have only faculty present. If first year students attend, they will be observers only.

The department will also hold a public, quarter-end critique for first year students; all MFA (first and second year) students are required to attend. All faculty will also attend, as schedules allow.

**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 Critique section of the Graduate Studio Project (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. In the Fall, the critiques will focus on the work of second year students.

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.

ARTV 40000 section 01 will also be offered every quarter. 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. The DGS will assign a pass/fail grade for ARTV 40000 section 01 based on input from the faculty. In the Fall and Winter, the grade will be based on participation in individual studio visits, OPC and other departmental events.

Graduate Studio Project (Spring quarter):

In the Spring, all students will take at least 100 hours of ARTV 40000 01. In the Spring quarter, the pass/fail grade for ARTV 40000 01 will be determined by attendance, participation and performance in individual studio visits, critiques and other departmental and OPC events.

Sample course schedule for MFA students:

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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 three of the sections of 40000 01 that are required for the MFA.
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 second year MFA students. A meeting schedule will be established by each committee early in the fall quarter.

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 rough draft of the paper is due to the committee in the first week of the Winter quarter. The final version is due to the committee and to Alison before the show opens 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 website.