

Guidelines For Creative Writing And Multi-Media Thesis

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES YORK UNIVERSITY

If the thesis project falls into the broad category of "creative writing and multi-media" [CWMM], it remains an interdisciplinary project with a CWMM component.

The Graduate Programme in Interdisciplinary Studies encourages students to pursue any creative/project-based work that is related to the formal academic component of their project. However, the programme rests on the foundation of a scholarly, written thesis. Such a thesis might have integrated into it creative elements or be presented in a creative or non-traditional style. The Graduate Programme in Interdisciplinary Studies must distinguish itself from Masters of Fine Arts programmes both at York University and elsewhere. The Programme has a contractual agreement with both the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies to maintain its intent and purpose as a Master of Arts and not a Master of Fine Arts.

Faculty of Graduate Studies guidelines must be met for theses. While theses can potentially be delivered in a wide array of formats--linear and non--linear, (CD-ROM, video, film, etc.), a formal academic written component remains the foundation. The simplest basis for this is the explicit indication in the work delivered of reviews of literature, analysis and synthesis of ideas. It is also important to note that the format of delivery must have the full support of all three committee members. However, students must be warned that Interdisciplinary Studies does not have the resources to aid students in some of the formats that they might wish to work in. In such circumstances students must depend on the benevolence of the programmes, departments, and faculties with the resources and might find that those programmes are not as generous with equipment and studio space given their own students' requirements. I.S. cannot assist with exhibits either, nor provide security for artwork.

To date, the CWMM component has been primarily a fiction one. In general, the pages in such a thesis break down this way:

Sample Thesis

Total length 188 pages, including fiction, scholarly/theoretical/methods, introduction and commentary, and bibliography.

Scholarly introduction and commentary: 62 pages

Fiction: 126 pages (including bibliography)

Thus, CWMM theses are approximately 2/3 fiction and or other media and 1/3 standard academic format. There is an expectation that this traditional scholarly commentary frame the fictional or media-media component, although there are a variety of ways in which this framing takes place. The guidelines for this are open and flexible, and to be determined by the student in consultation with the supervisory committee.

These guidelines are based on the suggestions of the programme's CWMM Committee, November 1, 1999 as revised by Rinaldo Walcott, January 19, 2000, Marlene Kadar June 12, 2001, Patrick Taylor, November 19, 2003 and Marlene Kadar, February 11, 2009.