School of Communications, BFA Thesis Project (2 sh.)

The thesis project is the culminating experience for students in the BFA program. Students independently produce an original festival-ready television or cinematic work. Working with a faculty mentor, students submit a proposal by the end of the junior year that includes a preliminary script or outline and substantive written documentation explaining the project’s significance. Prerequisite: senior status in the BFA program. Repeatable once.

The BFA thesis project consist of the following elements:
* two consecutive semesters of COM 496 (2 sh.), BFA Thesis Project (4 sh. total),
* regularly scheduled meetings with the thesis project mentor demonstrating incremental progress throughout the project,
* 3-5 page thesis project proposal with brief literature review and bibliography of 3-5 sources,
* 10-15 page fully developed written paper with extensive literature review using a minimum of 8-10 sources,
* substantial festival-ready television or cinematic work (nature and length of the project to be determined in consultation with thesis project mentor), and
* public screening/presentation and defense of project to faculty jury.

Proposal Approval Form

[Please complete this form (except for signature/dates). Form is also available on the School of Communications website.]

Student Name__________________________________________

Project Title____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

The student’s signature indicates that he or she has and will attend scheduled meetings related to the thesis, and understands and agrees to comply with the School of Communications thesis project requirements.

________________________________________ (BFA student signature) Date_________

The faculty mentor’s signature below indicates approval of the project described in this proposal, understanding of BFA thesis project mentor expectations, and agreement to serve as mentor for the full thesis project.

________________________________________ (Faculty mentor signature) Date_________

The Department Chair’s signature below indicates s/he has seen the thesis project proposal and agrees that the project is suitable and practical.

________________________________________ (Department Chair signature) Date_________
BFA Thesis Application Form

(Please type this form.)

Name______________________________ OnTrack ID#______________________________

Email address_________________ Cell phone number______________________________

Semester started at Elon (month/year)____________ Graduation date____________

Project Title______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Major(s)_____________________________________/Minor(s)__________________________

Faculty mentor____________________________ Mentor email address_________________

Describe classes/experiences that give you a background suitable to undertake this project.

_______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Have you completed the Elon in L.A. semester or summer program? Yes ___ No ___ In Progress ___

If no, when do you plan to complete this requirement? ________________________________

Provide a brief summary of the qualifications that make your faculty mentor suitable to supervise this project.

_______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Please attach a copy of your degree audit.
Guidelines for Thesis Project Proposal

The BFA thesis project proposal is a basic description of your project. The proposal should explain the suitability of the thesis project in terms of its challenge, significance and practicality. The proposal is also an opportunity for you to consider the major goals of the project and its intended audience(s), the relevant literature that will inform the topic or production of this work, the methods, procedures, technology, and materials required to complete this project, additional personnel, production crew, interviewees and others who may be involved, and will enable you to develop a clear vision of the final product. Please consult with your faculty mentor if you have questions about this proposal or the thesis project.

Thesis Project Proposal Narrative

The 3-5 page narrative should be PROOF-READ CAREFULLY, TYPED, and DOUBLE-SPACED. Use the following section headings:

Introduction and Review of Relevant Literature
Explain the problem or area of study to be investigated in your thesis project. Describe the concept and focus of the project, including a clear statement of the topic, problem, main issues, questions to be considered or investigated. Your brief literature review should include any prior research and pertinent materials in this area, citing a minimum of 3-5 relevant sources that should be included in the bibliography.

Main Goal of the Project
What is the purpose of the project? Describe how this project addresses a worthwhile topic. Please describe the degree to which this project is original or unique and how it could potentially add to the fields of television and/or cinema. What is the intended audience for this topic?

Methods
Include a description of the main methods, procedures and tasks you will use in completing this project. How will you proceed? How will you collect information and produce audio, video, graphics or other materials. Describe the production equipment that you will need to complete this project.

As a primary motivating force behind this project, describe your specific contributions to this work (i.e. screenwriter, director, editor, etc.). Describe any additional personnel or crew that you will need to support this production. Also, describe any on-camera or voice-over talent needed for this production (narrator, actors/actresses, extras, etc.) and the source(s) of funding, if needed. Please attach a copy of any “release” forms that you will use in conjunction with this project.

Please indicate any projected expenses involved in the production of this project (sets, location costs, costumes, original music, etc.) and the source(s) of funding to support expenses that exceed existing resources provided by the School of Communications. Please include a projected itemized budget if needed.

Final Product
Please provide a general description of what your final product will look like. Include expected format, length, etc. For example, this project is a 15-minute film short with a 15-20 page written description and analysis of the production process. Also, please indicate some realistic venues for submission or exhibition of this work.
Thesis Feasibility Report

Ordinarily, a student will require a full academic year to complete all elements of the thesis project. Working with a faculty mentor, a student must submit the proposal the semester before the final full senior year. Please include a brief general timeline of when you will complete major tasks and a budget itemizing any anticipated expenses.

Timeline. Outline the major steps with projected completion dates. A sample timeline is provided below. This timeline may vary depending on a student’s projected graduation date.

• Spring (junior year)
  o Submit application with proposal Apr. 30, 2014

• Fall (senior year) (pre-production)
  o Enroll in COM 496, BFA Thesis Project (2 sh.) Fall Semester
  o Conduct review of pertinent literature Sep. 31, 2014
  o Write script or development treatment/outline Oct. 15, 2014
  o Acquire/construct sets and/or scout locations Nov. 15, 2014
  o Establish production schedule and reserve equipment Dec. 10, 2014

• Spring (senior year) (production & post-production)
  o Enroll in COM 496, BFA Thesis Project (2 sh.) Spring Semester
  o Videotape interviews or on-location and studio segments Feb. 31, 2015
  o Edit video and audio sweetening Mar. 15, 2015
  o Rough-cut of final project and subsequent revisions Apr. 10, 2015
  o Public presentation/screening of thesis project and defense May 5, 2015
  o Update e-portfolio to include thesis project May 10, 2015

Bibliography

Please include a minimum of 3-5 relevant sources that will inform the topic or creation of this project that you will also use as part of a more extensive literature review and fully developed written paper to be submitted in conjunction with this project.