

## Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project

The BFA in Cinema and Television Arts is an intensive degree for students who want to go above and beyond what they are able to do in the normal sequence of classes within the major. The thesis project is the culminating experience for students in the BFA program, and should demonstrate advanced research, technical, and creative skills, fostered through experiential learning and one-on-one faculty mentorship. Students independently produce an original festival-quality television or cinematic work, script, or other media product. Working with a faculty mentor, students submit a proposal during their junior year that includes substantive written documentation explaining the goals and objectives of the project. Prerequisite: Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The BFA thesis project consists of:

- 3-4 page written proposal based on the application guidelines
- two consecutive semesters of COM 496 or COM 499 (2 sh/ea semester)
- regularly scheduled meetings with the thesis project faculty mentor over two semesters
- a fully developed production notebook including literature, film, and source material review, and reflection
- midpoint review
- substantial festival-quality project (nature and length to be determined with faculty mentor)
- public screening/presentation and defense of project to faculty mentor and committee

### Timeline

Junior Year – Fall	Junior Year – Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Envision concept for project</li> <li>• Establish faculty mentor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with faculty mentor on BFA proposal (all signatures due no later than April 30)</li> </ul>
Senior Year – Fall	Senior Year – Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll in COM 496, BFA Thesis Project</li> <li>• Meet weekly with COM 496 instructor or faculty mentor</li> <li>• Conduct review of pertinent motion pictures, artworks in other mediums, literature, including historic and journalistic sources, scholarly writing and creative works</li> <li>• Select two additional faculty committee members (at least one must teach in COM)</li> <li>• Complete pre-production of project</li> <li>• Complete production notebook that informs the project</li> <li>• Apply for grant funding, if appropriate</li> <li>• Begin production of project upon approval of pre-production documents by the faculty mentor</li> <li>• Mid-point review with faculty mentor and committee (no later than last day of final exams)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll in COM 499, Research and Creative Activity</li> <li>• Meet weekly with faculty mentor</li> <li>• Complete production of project</li> <li>• Complete post-production of project</li> <li>• Delivery of project to faculty mentor and committee (no later than April 15)</li> <li>• Thesis defense with committee (no later than May 1)</li> <li>• Public presentation/screening of thesis project</li> <li>• Update e-portfolio to include thesis project</li> </ul>

# Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project Application

*(Typed, please)*

Name:

OnTrack ID#

Email address:

Cell phone number:

1<sup>st</sup> Elon semester (month/year):

Graduation date:

Major(s):

Minor(s):

Project Title:

Faculty mentor:

Mentor email address:

Provide a brief summary of the qualifications that make your faculty mentor suitable for this project:

Attach a copy of your transcript. Write below what courses you plan to take to finish the credit hours of the BFA and the Cinema and Television Arts major:

# Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project Proposal Requirements and Format

Your 3-4 page proposal should be typed, double spaced, and proofread carefully. In it, explain the suitability of the thesis project in terms of its challenge, significance and practicality. Use the following section headings:

## **Logline**

In 1-3 sentences give an overview/pitch of your project.

## **Story Synopsis**

In a single page, clearly summarize the story and/or concept of the project including its basic structure and story arc. Be sure to identify key characters or participants, as well as any locations.

## **Main Goal of the Project**

In addressing this, you may consider some of the following questions: Why is this story important to you? What themes and issues will you investigate? Why do you think it will resonate with an audience, and who is that intended audience? What worthwhile challenges does the project present to you? How is this project original or unique, and how could it potentially add to the fields of television, or other media?

## **Review of Relevant Sources**

You may consider some of the following: What sources will you use in researching your themes, characters, story, setting, and locations? What sources will you use to research the style and look of your project? This section should include books, articles, motions pictures, scholarly writings, as well as visual references such as photography, architecture, fine art, etc.

## **Methods**

Describe the methods, procedures and tasks you will use in completing this project. How will you collect information and produce audio, video, graphics or other materials?

Outline 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, outline any on-camera or voice-over talent needed for this production (narrator, actors/actresses, extras, etc.).

## **Budget**

Provide a budget outlining 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.

## **Timeline**

Outline the major steps with projected completion dates.

## **Final Product**

Provide a general description of what your final product will look like. Include expected format and length. Also, if you feel you have any unique opportunities for exhibition of your work beyond film festivals and Elon University please indicate.

## Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project Proposal Approval Form

Student Name:

Project Title:

(Handwritten signatures only, please)

The student's signature below indicates that he or she understands the School of Communications thesis project requirements, and agrees to comply with those expectations and Elon's Honor Code.

\_\_\_\_\_ (BFA student signature) Date\_\_\_\_\_

The faculty mentor's signature below indicates approval of the project described in this proposal, understanding of BFA thesis faculty mentor's expectations, and agreement to serve as faculty 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\_\_\_\_\_