

San José State University
TV, Radio, Film, Theatre
SUPERVISED RESEARCH – COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS
TA 298 (1 unit #22313, 2 units #22314, 3 units #22315)
Spring, 2010

Instructor:	David Kahn
Office Location:	Hugh Gillis Hall (HGH) 110
Telephone:	(408) 924-4540
Email:	David.Kahn@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday 12 Noon – 1:30 PM; T 3:00-5:30 PM; ARR
Class Days/Time:	ARR
Classroom:	ARR

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

TA 298 - Supervised research or creative project in a specific field of theatre. Repeatable for credit. (1-4 units)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

TA 298 (Plan B) – Research Project with Comprehensive written and oral Examination based on approved Study Plan from TA 260. Students complete their approved course of study in preparation for Comprehensive Examinations. The Comprehensive Examination provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate a thorough grasp of history, theory, practice and pedagogy within and across the disciplines of television, radio, film and theatre. On the exam the student is expected to display a familiarity with theoretical, aesthetic and historiographical issues, and to follow acceptable rules of grammar, spelling and academic style in presentation (MLA format).

With Plan B the candidates must successfully complete an oral examination based on the written examination. In addition, in order to complete the degree requirements, Plan B students must submit a scholarly article or conference paper for consideration by a peer reviewed publication or professional association.

REQUIREMENTS/GRADING

The readings from TA 200 (Research Methods) and TA 201 (TRFT Theory) constitute the foundation and common ground for discourse for all graduates of the program. They are used in the preparation for the final Comprehensive Examination along with the specified reading list developed under TA 260. Each examination area has a suggested reading/viewing list of approximately 25 books, articles or screenings. Students will edit and elaborate these suggested lists according to their interests and in consultation with their first reader,

producing a first-reader-approved list of 50 works that will form the core of the examination reading. These works should address 1) the research methods aspects of the subject area; 2) the theory/theories appropriate to the research question; and 3) sources materials and scholarship in the specific area of the approved research question.

The approved list of 50 works must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator no later than March 1.

The Comprehensive Examination is administered once per semester during the thirteenth or fourteenth week of classes. It is a take-home examination consisting of three questions which the student must answer in the form of 2000-word essays.

The Comprehensive Examination process asks the students to:

1. demonstrate their range of knowledge;
2. demonstrate their ability to deploy that knowledge effectively through argumentation and appropriate and specific reference to primary and secondary sources;
3. articulate areas of performance research, theory and practice in an integrated fashion.

The comprehensive examination in theatre allows candidates not only to tell what they know but also to demonstrate what they can do with information.

The exams will be given sometime during the week of April 26 and will be due May 7 by 5pm.

Readers of the examination look for more than a reiteration of the content of standard sources of information about theatre and media arts. The written essays should demonstrate the essential skills of scholarship: an ability to analyze problems and data, to formulate theses or points of view, and to locate, evaluate and organize evidence to support a contention. Each essay should exhibit a balance of specialist and generalist knowledge in the field, and a range of methodological inquiry (i.e., ethnography, critical analysis, media effects, dramaturgy, pedagogy, etc.).

Students have one week to complete the written exam which must be submitted through the Class Turnitin Website (turnitin.com - class ID: 3106583; enrollment password: TA298s10) and via hard copy. Exams must strictly follow MLA guidelines, including citation and references. Students will be notified by e-mail of the exam results. Students who fail any section of the exam may retake that section no more than twice. Any student who does not turn in the exam will obtain a failing grade. Late exams result in failure. There are no exceptions.

The Oral Defense Examination allows the student to expand on the Comprehensive Examination answers and to give the Graduate Committee a chance to engage specifically with the student's work as demonstrated in the

exams. The oral examination provides an opportunity for the student to correct, amend, or defend assertions made in the written examination, It is also an opportunity for the student to demonstrate skill in oral explanation and argument. The Committee may raise questions pertaining to the examination questions, to the scope of the fields as represented by the reading lists, and to the particular research that the student proposed in the Plan of Study.

Exams are graded by a committee comprised of three faculty members. Exams are given grades of PASS WITH DISTINCTION, PASS or FAIL.

Plan B students must submit a scholarly article or conference paper for consideration by a peer reviewed publication or professional association. A copy of the submission is due to the Graduate Coordinator no later than May 21.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html). Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html) . [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/) . Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes

THEATRE ARTS M. A. PROGRAM – STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (*specific to TA 298)

- Learn research methods appropriate for answering questions and solving problems in the field.
- Acquire skills in information gathering, data and text interpretation, performance in different media, and performance technologies.
- *Evaluate previous research, attitudes, and achievements in performing arts from a critical perspective.
- Learn to identify historical, cognitive, aesthetic, or cultural realities governing the evolution of the performing arts.
- *Develop persuasive research evidence in the format of academic journal publication.
- Demonstrate effective pedagogical strategy and teaching effectiveness.
- Contribute creative or organizational leadership in performing arts education and culture.
- Identify a valid area of new academic inquiry and an appropriate research methodology designed to sustain the attention of an influential, critical audience.
- *Prepare for competitive entry into doctoral programs or other significant areas of career advancement, arts education and culture.