

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

In collaboration with

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

School of Fine Arts

Syllabus

M A Visual Arts

(Full Time)

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

M.A Visual Arts

1. Title: M.A Visual Arts (Full time)

2. Rationale

The Visual Arts are well-known to be a fast changing field with new ideas, technologies and methodologies developing rapidly and challenging previous ones. In view of the above and in view of the needs of the country over the next decades, a Master's Degree is being offered to students who already have an undergraduate degree in the field.

3. Objectives

The MA Visual Arts will equip the students with the skills and competencies necessary for professional practice in the visual arts and related cultural industries at local, regional and international levels.

4. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the students will have been exposed to recent trends in the Visual Arts and will have received training that will empower them to be the new generation of Mauritian artists, fully equipped to raise the standards of the local art scene to the next level

5. General Entry Requirements

Successful completion of an undergraduate degree with:

- At least a second class or 50% which ever is applicable or
- A GPA not less than 2.5 out of 4 or equivalent, from a recognized higher education institution

Or alternative qualifications acceptable to the Mahatma Gandhi Institute/ University of Mauritius.

6. Programme Requirements

B.A Fine Arts or an alternative qualification acceptable to the Mahatma Gandhi Institute/ University of Mauritius.

7. General and Programme Requirements – Special Cases

The following may be deemed to have satisfied the General and Programme requirements for admission:

- (i) Applicants who do not satisfy any of the requirements as per Regulations 2 and 3 above but who submit satisfactory evidence of having passed examinations, which are deemed by the Senate to be equivalent to any of those listed.
- (ii) Applicants who do not satisfy any of the requirements as per Regulations 2 and 3 above but who in the opinion of Senate submit satisfactory evidence of the capacity and attainments requisite to enable them to pursue the programme proposed.
- (iii) Applicants who hold a full practicing professional qualification obtained by examination.

8. Programme Duration

	Minimum (Yrs)	Maximum (Yrs)
Master's Degree	2	4
Postgraduate Diploma	2	4
Postgraduate Certificate	1	2

9 Credits per Semester

Minimum 3 credits subject to regulation 6

10. Minimum Credits required for Awards

	Core modules	Dissertation	Exhibitions	Electives	Total
Master's Degree	18 credits	9 credits	9 credits	6credits	42credits
Postgraduate Diploma	18 credits				24 credits
Postgraduate Certificate	15 credits				15 credits

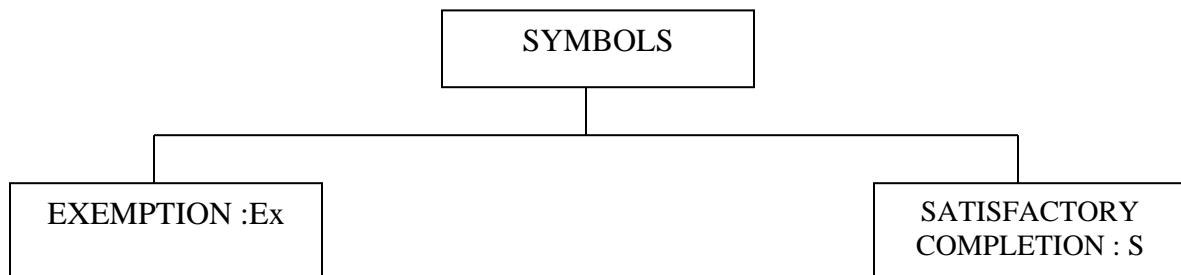
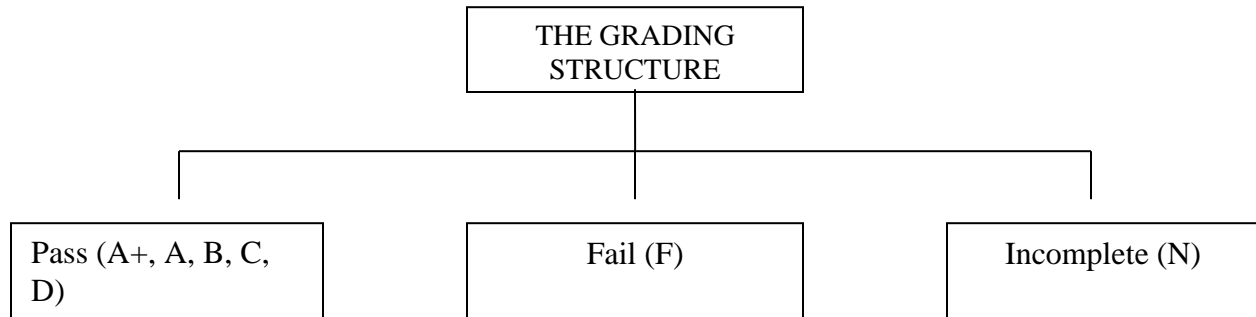
11. Assessment

- (i) Theory modules will carry 100 marks, out of which 30% will be from continuous assessment (CA).
- (ii) Practical modules will carry 100 marks, out of which 50% will be from continuous assessment (CA).
- (iii) A practical examination or a two-hour written examination per module will be set at the end of each semester, unless otherwise stated. Duration of practical examination will range from 6 hours to a maximum of 20 hours spread over a minimum of 5 days, depending on the nature of the module.
- (iv) Continuous assessment will be based on practical and/or written assignments with at least one class test.
- (v) For a student to pass a module, an overall total of 40% for continuous assessment (CA) and Written (WE) or Practical Examination (PE) components would be required.
- (vi) There is no level attached to modules, i.e. each module carries its credit value.
- (vii) Modules MVA 5000 and MVA 6000 will be assessed by display of works and Viva voce.

Submission Deadlines for Dissertation

- First Draft: End of July in the Final Year
- Final Copy: Last working day of August in the Final Year.

12. The Grading Structure



Letter Grade	Grade Point	Percentage	Description
A +	4.00	$x \geq 80$	Passes i.e. obtains 40 % and above in overall module earns Credits/ Grade Points
A		$70 \leq x < 80$	
B		$60 \leq x < 70$	
C		$50 \leq x < 60$	
D		$40 \leq x < 50$	
F	0	$x < 40$	Fails i.e. obtains < 40% in overall module. Does not earn Credits/ Grade Points. Considered in CPA/ GPA computation. Students to retake whole module.
N	na		Incomplete module/ project/ independent study due to medical/ financial/ other reasons (may be in 1 or both components of the module). Marks for CA or WE which are available will be retained; marks for incomplete component (WE or CA) to be added when available to arrive at total marks for module.

Symbols	Description
Ex	Exemption in modules
S	Satisfactory completion of Placement/ Industrial Training/ Portfolio/ Seminars/ Module (s)

13. Choice of electives

Students will be required to submit their choice of electives in order of priority by the middle of Semester I of the year I.

The University reserves the right not to offer a given elective module if the critical number of students is not attained and / or if there are resource constraints. Additional electives may also be offered depending on availability of resources.

14. Important Note

Students are advised to consult the “General Information to Students’ booklet available at the Registrar’s office of the University of Mauritius or at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute library for further details, or the website of the University of Mauritius

15. List of Modules

Module code	Modules	Hr/Wk	Credits
MVA 5117	Critical Issues in Contemporary Art I	3 + 0	3
MVA 5114	Interdisciplinary Studio Practicum I	6 + 0	6
MVA 5214	Interdisciplinary Studio Practicum II	6 + 0	6
MVA 5217	Critical Issues in Contemporary Art II	3 + 0	3
MVA 6017	Dissertation		9
MVA 6000	Curatorial Studies Exhibition Project		9
	Electives		6
Total			42

16 PROGRAMME PLAN

Level I Semester I

Module code	Modules	Credit	
MVA 5117	Critical Issues in Contemporary Art I	3	3 + 0
MVA 5114	Interdisciplinary Studio Practicum I	6	6 + 0

Semester II

Module code	Modules	Credit	
MVA 5217	Critical Issues in Contemporary Art II	3	3 + 0
MVA 5214	Interdisciplinary Studio Practicum II	6	6 + 0

Level II Semester I

Module code	Modules	Credit	
MVA 6017	Dissertation		
MVA 6000	Curatorial Studies Exhibition Project		
	Elective	3	

Semester II

Module code	Modules	Credit	
MVA 6017	Dissertation	9	
MVA 6000	Curatorial Studies Exhibition Project	9	
	Elective	3	

17. COURSE OUTLINE

Level I

Semester I

MVA 5117 Critical Issues in Contemporary Art I

A critical and aesthetic inquiry into a specific set of issues in contemporary art and culture. Students encounter theoretical models that are key to an understanding of contemporary cultural practice as well as key to an understanding of cultural analysis. The module will benefit from the input of a variety of stakeholders – art historians, critics and artists will lecture or collaborate with students on collective projects.

Continuous Assessment: 30 %

Written Examination: 70 %

MVA 5114 Interdisciplinary Studio Practicum I

Through one main project (or alternatively, a series of strongly inter-related mini-projects), the student will explore a field that presents both intellectual and aesthetic challenges. The outcome of this investigation will take the form of a corpus of works that share a common conceptual framework but which need not be limited to one media or technique. Interdisciplinary works that may include drawing, installation, electronic imaging, painting, performance, printmaking, photography, and video will be privileged.

Continuous Assessment: 50 %

Practical Examination: 50 %

Level I

Semester II

MVA 5217 Critical Issues in Contemporary Art II

A further investigation into specific issues in contemporary art, especially as pertaining to the transposition of global issues to the local context. The module explores elements of modernity in art, architecture, and visual culture, with particular emphasis on new methodologies. Topics include public/private sphere issues, high and low culture, notions of self and identity, sexual difference and gender.

Continuous Assessment: 30 %

Written Examination: 70 %

MVA 5214 Interdisciplinary Studio Practicum II

An advanced level of work in studio production with group meetings weekly to discuss process-based art production. The emphasis will be on the interdisciplinary dimension of the process of art making. Rather than think in terms of the specificness of a particular media, the conceptual underpinnings and social ramifications of art making will be brought to the fore so that students develop a contextually relevant practice.

Continuous Assessment: 50 %

Practical Examination: 50 %

Level II Semester I & II

MVA 6017 Dissertation

A dissertation of 10,000-14,000 words on a topic chosen with the help of the School of Fine Arts. The topic which can be about any aspect of Mauritian visual culture (painting, sculpture, printmaking, film, video, popular culture, visual media, etc) that the students find worth investigating, especially if it has a direct bearing upon his/her own art production. The dissertation should be original and research based.

Written Thesis: 80%

Viva Voce: 20%

MVA 6000 Curatorial Studies Exhibition Project

The implementation of a curated exhibition and catalogue essay presented in a professional gallery or alternative context. The final project will consist of a professional exhibition with two major components: a substantial essay on the subject of the exhibition and its appropriate contextualization, and implementation of the curatorial project. Students will then proceed to the implementation of the project and the essay. A final review and oral exam will be conducted by Examiners at the end of the semester, at the site of the exhibition.

Exhibition concept: 50 %

Display /organization: 50 %

Electives

1. MVA 5001 Experimental Video

An alternative approach to mainstream use of the video medium, this module encourages creative and deconstructive approach to film-making. Students are encouraged to re-appropriate the medium and to find ways of integrating experimental video into their art making practice.

Continuous Assessment: 50 %

Practical Examination: 50 %

2. MVA 5002 Outdoor ephemeral work

Sculpture has grown beyond its traditional limitations. Students are encouraged to look at how particular contexts and circumstances require works of art that are less permanent but more demanding in terms of a contextual-awareness.

Continuous Assessment: 50 %

Practical Examination: 50 %

3. MVA 5003 Art and social engagement

In reaction to the very limited modernist notion of the artists in his studio/ivory tower, contemporary art encourages an art of social rapport whereby the student can, if he/she chooses this elective, integrate an element of social engagement by initiating collective/collaborative ventures that may include the socially under-privileged.

Continuous Assessment: 50 %

Practical Examination: 50 %

4. MVA 5004 Web-based art communication

In an era of high speed connection where inter-connectedness is a must and where web-based communities can influence the reception of an artist's work, it is necessary that the students take full measure of the role of the internet in the art world today. The internet is the main tool to avoid the fate of insularity.

Continuous Assessment: 50 %

Practical Examination: 50 %