

**San José State University
School of Music and Dance
Theatre, Radio TV Film, Animation
Graduate Research Seminar
TA 200 (#40943)
Fall, 2011**

Instructor: Dr. David Kahn
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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-3 pm; ARR
Class Days/Time: Thursday 3:30-6:15 pm
Classroom: HGH 114
Prerequisites: Prerequisite: Upper division standing or instructor consent.
Repeatable for credit.

Online Syllabus, Schedule, Resources

<http://www.sjsu.edu/people/david.kahn/courses/TA200/>

Course Description

SJSU Catalog Graduate study in theatre arts, bibliography, methods of investigation and reporting techniques applicable. Reading and research. Prerequisite: Acceptance to MA program or instructor consent.

Knowledge emerges only through invention and reinvention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other. (Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, 58)

TA 200 explores the nature and processes of advanced research in Theatre-Radio-Film and Television. We start by identifying various motives for doing research, explaining why research is important within the professional field and central to academic pursuits.

We study the sequential development of successful research projects, beginning with selection of appropriate research questions – specific, limited areas of investigation worthy of critical scrutiny and expected to make a contribution to the existing literature on the subject. We examine methods for evidence searches, looking at connections between subject

matter/topics and different modes of research, including library searches, field studies, data collection, online sources, and others. We emphasize active evaluative engagement between the researcher and these materials seeking to identify other researchers' intentions and structural methods, to reveal the strengths and limitations of their work and to examine the validity of its conclusions.

We pay particular attention to relationships between research and performance, emphasizing how performance can be a site to gather evidence and to test theory. Finally, we focus on appropriate scholarly reporting techniques including task organization, writing style, documentation, and physical preparation of manuscripts – all geared toward the creation of publishable scholarly research as exemplified by the Master's Thesis.

Course materials include examples of recently published articles in leading journals along with presentations by members of the TRFT faculty covering aspects of their own research projects.

Required Texts/Readings

Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th ed.)

Booth, Colomb and Williams, *The Craft of Research* (3rd ed.)

Zinsser, *On Writing Well* (30th Anniversary ed.) (highly recommended)

Selected journal articles, xerox materials, videos, and theatre performances posted to the class website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/david.kahn/courses/TA200/>

Course Structure/Grading

- READING ASSIGNMENTS/DISCUSSION (25% of grade)

Students are expected to contribute actively and critically to class discussion of assigned reading. Participation is required and absence will lower grade.

- RESEARCH TASK ASSIGNMENTS (25% of grade)

1. Locate and evaluate a scholarly article for class discussion
2. Abstract and evaluate a scholarly article from literature review

- PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS (20% of grade)

Prepare a formal written statement of two distinct research proposals, including 1) a statement of the question or problem; 2) a suggested methodology; and 3) a preliminary literature review, with a minimum of twenty (20) sources for each proposal.

- TERM PAPER PROJECT (30% of grade)

Develop and complete a scholarly paper (approx. 4000 words) derived from the definition of a *specific research question or problem* pertaining to the study of television, radio, film, theatre or dance performance. Components of the term paper project are as follows:

Term Paper Due Dates:

1. Oct 22 Formal statement of research question or problem
2. Oct 29 Preliminary bibliography/literature review
3. Nov 19 Preliminary abstract (250 words max.)
4. Dec 3 4000-word term paper and final bibliography/works cited pages according to formal guidelines in MLA Style Sheet
5. Dec 11 Revised abstract

Late Assignments Will Be Penalized One Letter Grade For Each Day Overdue.

Students are **required** to turn in all written assignments in hard copy and electronically. (Go to www.turnitin.com to create a user profile. Then use the class ID **4263724** and enrollment password: **ta200f11** to enroll in the class.)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

A. Academic Integrity Statement

“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 Judicial Affairs.” The policy on academic integrity can be found at:

http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html

One form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism--taking ideas, writing, or work from another person or source and representing them as one's own. Plagiarism includes both having someone else write your papers and cutting and pasting from the Internet. For advice on how to avoid plagiarism, consult the following site:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html

B. Campus policy in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

“If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 register with the DRC to establish a record of their disability.”

C. Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

THEATRE ARTS M.A. PROGRAM – STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (*specific to TA 200)

- *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.

TA 200
SCHEDULE (8/25/11; subject to revision)

Aug 25	Review syllabus – Course introduction; Graduate Studies at SJSU
Sept 1	The nature of advanced research READ Gibaldi to page 46, Booth et. al. to page 35. General grad student meeting @ 4:30 PM
Sept 8	Library resources in TRFT [meet in King Library 217 - Paul Kauppila] BRING IN SCHOLARLY ARTICLE – two copies from a well-known journal (in your discipline); write a one-page summary/evaluation of the article; attach it to one copy of the article and submit.
Sept 15	Faculty Presentation – Evaluating advanced research Finding a topic and narrowing it down to something "doable." Questions to problems, problems to sources. READ Booth pp. 35-105
Sept 22	Identifying questions, literature review, methodologies READ SELECTED SCHOLARLY ARTICLES [discussion and deconstruction]
Sept 29	Faculty Presentation – Argument: Reasons and evidence READ Booth pp. 105-170 (see <i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i> Oct. 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 at 7 PM)
Oct 6	PRESENTATION OF TWO RESEARCH PROPOSAL TOPICS (Two distinct topics, <u>at least 20</u> references for <u>each</u> topic)
Oct 13	Library Session #2 [5-6:15 pm King #217]
Oct 20	Introduction to Qualitative & Quantitative Research ABSTRACT SCHOLARLY ARTICLE FROM LIT REVIEW •PAPER: Formal statement of research question or problem
Oct 27	Faculty Presentation – Dr. David Terry Quantitative Research: methods, reliability, validity, and interobserver agreement. Survey Research: purpose, types, factors, response rate, random sample, internal/external validity •PAPER: literature review
Nov 3	Faculty Presentation – Dr. Kathie Kratochvil Qualitative Research: methods, reliability and validity of qualitative research, observation studies (bias), participant observation, interviewing, ethnography, critical study, audience response, journals, self reports.
Nov 10	Faculty Presentation -

Nov 17	• PAPER: preliminary abstract via email and turnitin.com
Nov 24	<i>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</i>
Dec 1	New Directions in Performing Arts Research.
Dec 8	Performance as Research/Research as Performance – discuss <i>end of semester</i> production • PAPER: due