Defining research interest through engagement in the arts

Course Description:
This one-credit honors course will focus on using engagement with the arts to help students begin or refine the research process. Students will use their explorations to identify questions and problems of interest to them, with a goal of developing research questions that might inform an honor’s thesis or similar project. Students will create three project explorations to (1) foster wide reading, (2) synthesize the products of their reading into a project idea, and (3) formulate a research question or questions, and a research plan. The project will involve significant exploration of ones own autobiographies of interest, introduction to library research and practical tools, and the foundations of arts-based research. With regard to the latter, students will explore fiction writing, poetry, visual arts and theatre as jumping-off-places for beginning the work of inquiry. Other explorations are also possible, based on student interest. The course will draw from guest speakers who are working artist researchers from a range of disciplines, and short, eclectic, similarly interdisciplinary readings in arts-based research. At the conclusion of the course, students will have at least two research questions, a tentative plan, and a small folio of art projects that map out both their early

Season Course Is Offered: Spring
Meeting Day: Wednesday
Instructor First Name and Middle Initial: Sally
Instructor Last Name: Galman
Instructor Email: sally@educ.umass.edu
Course Time: 10:10am - 11:00am