

LETTERPRESS - ART 465 801, CRN: 81069 Casey McGarr

COURSE SYLLABUS

E-MAIL

Casey.McGarr@tamuc.edu
E-mail should be used for brief verbal communications only.
If your e-mail is longer than 55 words, I suggest some face-time

OFFICE HOURS

(by email confirmation)
Monday 1:30 - 2:30
Thursday 11:30 - 2:30
214.752.9009 Office #327

CLASS INFORMATION

Credit hours: 4.0
Meeting times: Wednesday 11:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m.
Meeting location: 313 B Letterpress Studio

REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED TEXT BOOKS AND RESOURCES

REQUIRED:

Letterpress Printing, A Manual For Modern Fine Press Printers by Paul Maravelas, \$14.97 + tax

SUGGESTED:

Printing Digital Type on a Hand-Operated Flatbed Cylinder Press by Gerald Lange
General Printing by Glen U. Cleeton and Charles W. Pitkin

RECOMMENDED READING: <http://www.fiveroses.org/bibliography..htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will serve as an introduction to the basic concepts of letterpress printing through demonstrations and a hands-on experience. Course content will address letterpress history, type anatomy, terminology, formal and aesthetic issues, tools, materials of the trade, and safety issues. Thumbnail ideation, writing, type setting, and linoleum carving will also be explored.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a working knowledge of the type, presses, and equipment within the studio environment including preparing for printing, cleaning, general safety, and upkeep.
2. Learn to print proficiently
3. Consider the historical, present, and future applications of the letterpress
4. Combine text and image, and discover new ways to unite the two
5. Develop individual ideas into fully realized concepts.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The class will be a combination of lecture, in class demonstrations, printing, and critiques. A basic understanding of typography and design will play a crucial role in your letterpress experience. Explore new concept possibilities using limited color to accomplish dramatic letterpress prints.

TYPE DISTRIBUTION / CLEANUP

1. All type must be redistributed as each project is completed.
2. Efficient redistribution will allow other students to use the type.
3. Distributing furniture, leading, and rags in their proper areas.

CRITIQUES

1. Critiques are a valuable part of learning a skill and developing as a creative individual.
2. Critiques provide an opportunity for the class to gather and create intelligent discussion around the work that has been produced and further the process.
3. Students have varying backgrounds and experiences: this is an asset to the class. No student should feel they do not have the knowledge to make a meaningful comment. Concerns of design and layout depend heavily on intuition and impulse: everyone's contributions are valuable.

COURSE SYLLABUS

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SUPPLIES

Old clothes or Apron (cheap white)
Basic tools: pencils, erasers, sharpie markers, scissors, ruler, masking and scotch tape, utility knife and blades
Portfolio to store and transport your work and printing paper
3 ring Binder
Sketchbook
Tracing paper 9x12
12" pica ruler Metal Ruler
2-3 Plastic Palette Knives
Needed as class progresses
 Linoleum Blocks
 Speedball Linocut tools

ASSIGNMENTS (ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON THE NEEDS AND PROGRESS OF THE CLASS)

Poem/Quote Broadside	25%
Linocut and type combination (broadside or poster)	25%
Linocut and type combination (broadside or poster)	25%
Participation Grade	25%

ABSENCE POLICY

- You may be absent from class twice.
- On your first absence you will receive an e-mail warning, which is copied to Lee Whitmarsh.
- On your second absence you will receive an e-mail and you will be contacted by Lee Whitmarsh.
- On your third absence you will receive an F in the class. If you wish to drop the class you will receive a drop/fail.
- Two tardies of 20 minutes or more equals an absence.
- A tardy of 60 minutes equals an absence.
- Two late returns from break of more than 10 minutes equals one absence.
- If a student is OVER 10 MINUTES late for the final, a full grade will be deducted from his or her final grade. If a student does not show up for the final they automatically fail the class.
- There is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

CLASS POLICY

If a student is OVER 10 MINUTES late for the final, a full grade will be deducted from his or her final grade. If a student does not show up for the final they automatically fail the class.

CELL-PHONES, HEAD-PHONES, BEEPERS OR OTHER PDA DEVICES MAY NOT BE TURNED ON OR USED IN CLASS AT ANY TIME. COMPUTERS MAY NOT BE USED IN CLASS WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

GRADING SCALE

- A. 90 to 100 points: Excellent (work well above the general class level, evidence of participation in related activities outside of the classroom, thoughtful participation in classroom discussion and critique)
- B. 80 to 89 points: Good (work above the general class level, participation in classroom discussion and critique)
- C. 70 to 79 points: Average (average work, minimal requirements met)
- D. 60 to 69 points: Below Average (work below class average, lack of participation and/or poor attendance)
- F. 50 to 59 points: Poor (inferior work, work not turned in, failure to attend class)

In addition to project, quiz and test grades, students final grade will also be based on critique participation and application, work ethic, and attitude.

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GRADE EVALUATION

Your final grade will be based on an average of all assignments, attendance and an participation grade. The participation grade is based on: dedication to methodology application, conceptual thinking ability, daily class involvement and contributions to your classmates, as well as both a desire and capacity to show progress and meet deadlines. Grades will be discussed on an individual basis by office appointment only—not in class. Note: Violations of class policy with respect to cell-phones, head-phones, or other PDAs as well as unauthorized computer use in class with result in a one-point deduction from the current assignment.

WORDS TO-THE-WISE

Show up, be committed in your work, and immerse yourself in the process. It's your show.
DO NOT FALL BEHIND

HOLIDAY

September 1st - Labor Day (Monday)
October 15th - Mid Term Exam
November 27th - 28th Thanksgiving Holiday
December 10th - Final Assignment Due (last day of class)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ADA ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

OFFICE OF STUDENT DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

STUDENT CONDUCT/CITIZENSHIP

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook). Students are expected, at all times, to recognize constituted authority, to conform to the ordinary rules of good conduct, to be truthful, to respect the rights of others, to protect private and public property, and to make the best use of their time and effort toward the educational process.

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If the instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42 – 46 of the Texas A&M University-commerce Student guidebook's Codes of Conduct for details.