

**THESIS EXHIBITION / ARTS 548.801 EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT CR #40741** Casey McGarr

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

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Instructor: Casey McGarr, Assistant Professor Visual Communication  
Office Location: 415  
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**CLASS INFORMATION**

Credit hours: 6.0  
Meeting times: Meets 6 pm-10 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 6/06/2016 through 7/06/2016  
Meeting location: Pacific Place, Room 401, 4th floor

**SUGGESTED TEXTBOOKS AND RESOURCES**

- Various sources identified through the student's individual research, or sources suggested by thesis committee members germane to the progress and direction of the thesis research and exhibition agenda.
- Other major design university's MFA archives / repositories (SVA, VCU, Stanford D-school)
- Research in real libraries / journals
- AIGA archives
- Periodicals: Print Magazine, Communication Arts Magazine, I.D. Magazine,
- Fast Company Magazine
- Media: National Public Radio, 90.1 and news sources of all stripes
- Anywhere, and anything that is relevant to this topic (recorded interviews, ethnography, etc.)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Final thesis exhibition/execution process and final paper. A self-directed final study and development of a thesis exhibition, and final research paper directed by a designated major professor with feedback from a selected thesis committee.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Final checks, input and feedback from your major professor and committee towards the conclusion of your final thesis paper
- Develop a workable weekly schedule based on your individual thesis direction
- Explore and expand your current thesis research and incorporate results into your exhibition and final paper
- Receive guidance in facilitating your exhibition with respect to your direction, venue, budget and final execution
- Finalize a realistic thesis exhibition strategy and procedure and proceed to the completion of the build stage
- Be prepared to execute your thesis exhibition and write a well crafted thesis companion paper using the prescribed format incorporating your exhibition process, and or study's results
- Receive the necessary approvals to move forward to the exhibition build stage
- Receive the necessary approvals for your final thesis paper submission
- Preparation for graduation

**COURSE STRUCTURE / EXPECTATIONS**

The course structure will be a mix of individual meetings with your professor and class meetings TBD.

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

**GRADING:**

Your final grade will be based on your week-by-week progress, attendance and commitment to your research and success of your final thesis exhibition and paper. In addition, it is your responsibility to meet with your other committee members throughout the semester and bring their comments to your weekly meetings for discussion.

**ABSENCE POLICY**

- You may be absent from class twice.
- On your first absence you will receive an e-mail warning from your instructor and it will be copied to Lee Whitmarsh and filed.
- On your second absence you will receive an e-mail from your instructor and a phone call or email from Lee Whitmarsh, both filed.
- 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.

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- Two tardies of 20 minutes or more equals an absence.
- A tardy of 60 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.**

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**STATEMENT ON STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenet of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each other's 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.

**CLASS POLICY**

Cell-phones, e-mailing, texting, headphones, or unauthorized computer use in class with result in a one-point deduction from the current assignment.

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

- Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any class-related activity.
- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the submission of someone else's materials as one's own work.
- Scholastic dishonesty may involve one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, or collusion.

**PLAGIARISM**

Is the use of an author's words or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation. Cite your references.

**CHEATING**

Is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else's work for assignments as if it were one's own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

**COLLUSION**

Is intentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, providing a paper or project to another student, providing an inappropriate level of assistance, communicating answers to a classmate during an examination, removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY COULD RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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.ed

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Final thesis exhibition/execution process and final paper. A final study and development of a thesis exhibition, and final research paper directed by the professor with feedback from a selected thesis committee.

Summer I semester, this course is designed to facilitate the finalization of the MFA Graduate Student final thesis exhibition with feedback through weekly scheduled benchmarks and peer critique. The graduate student will be guided through the strategy, design, planning, and execution phase of their exhibition through these weekly class critiques using 3-D mock-ups in preparation for the exhibition build process.

**WEEKLY COURSE OUTCOMES INCLUDE:**

- Exploration and expansion of current thesis research and incorporation of results into exhibition and final paper
- Execution of research collected and necessary data to prove/ support the graduate thesis exhibition.
- Management of student's exhibition with respect to direction, venue, budget, and final execution
- Finalization of a realistic thesis exhibition strategy, plan, schematic and 3-D model with a step-by-step completion procedure
- Execution of thesis exhibition incorporating exhibition process and research results
- Receipt of the necessary approvals to move forward to the exhibition build stage
- Exhibition construction
- Rehearsal of exhibition presentation for successful audience review
- Receipt of the necessary approvals for final thesis paper submission
- Preparation for graduation

The 2015 Summer MFA Exhibition will be held at the VisCom Public Space 4th floor. A time consuming aspect of the exhibition is coordinating the interior space layout for each graduate students exhibition. Before the presentation, each student will be interviewed and videotape, which will be utilized for MFA VisCom recruiting. The final exhibition presentation, each student will present there finding based on their research to an estimated audience of 30 people. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions to the students finding and offer feedback.

Coordinating and facilitating the Summer I class for a successful graduate student exhibition is a significant task.