



ART 489: Experimental Concepts (Independent Study)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

******UPDATE******

Update: As of March 25, 2020, this class will exist online per new safety measures due to the coronavirus. Information from the earlier syllabus will be adapted, as needed, on an individual bases, as this semester evolves.

Due to the hands-on, and in-person tutorial methods of this highly individualized, facility, tool and material-intensive, project-specific, site-specific, in-person, joint research and studio course, along with how it evolves in real-time via hands-on experimentation, in-person, multi-species teamwork, and instruction, the instructor will reach out to each student individually regarding how they can adapt their research methods, along with the submission of their work, now that the course has transitioned to online, self-isolating and social distancing strategies due to current safety regulations.

Office hours, as of March 25, 2020, will be by appointment only, via phone or Facetime. More info TBA.

The original, pre-March 25, 2020 is syllabus below. This will be used as a guide, but will be adapted for reasons stated above.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Josephine Durkin, Associate Professor of Art

Office Location: A116

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11-2 by appointment.

Note: It is best to email me at least two days in advance, if possible, to schedule an appointment during my office hours. Although you are welcome to stop by my office during these times, I may not be in my office during office hours. This is because I could be meeting with other students for appointments in the Sculpture Lab, Wathena Temple, or another facility, depending on the varying research and project needs.

Office Phone: 903.886.5208

Office Fax: 903.886.5987

University Email Address: Josephine.Durkin@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Communication Response Time: Within 1-5 days, depending on the date the email is received. I check and respond to most university emails on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I generally do not check and respond to university emails sent over the weekend.

COURSE INFORMATION

We will meet at least every other week, on a Tuesday or Thursday, for studio visits and critiques.

Course Description

In-depth experimentation with concepts that address the creative process. Media selection is up to the individual student with the intent of arriving at innovative and effective individual expressions that explore the relevant concepts. This course focuses on the creative process, the development and expression of content, and art as a vehicle for meaning. Assigned exercises and projects will explore various conceptual concerns that are relevant to the creative process and/or current concerns in art making.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate:

- an increased understanding of the stages of the creative process
- the ability to analyze and discuss, in an articulate, thoughtful manner, the work presented at class critiques; focusing on design, subject matter, content, and selection and utilization of materials and methods
- the ability to present and install work in an effective way
- the ability to formulate an artist's statement which complements the creative work
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is an Independent Study version of an advanced studio course. This Independent Study may be offered by permit only, on an as-needed basis, to students who have successfully completed at least one of my other studio classes in previous semesters. Students taking this course must be self-motivated, self-directed and self-driven. There are no specific skill-sets needed, as these will vary depending on the student's interests and project needs.

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MATERIALS

A sketchbook is required for taking notes, drawing, conceiving and communicating your projects and ideas. The sketchbook cannot have lined paper, and must be at least 8 x 10 inches large. You may use a sketchbook that includes work for other classes, although work for other classes may not be presented as work for this class. Since this is not a medium-specific course, classes will not consist of material or technical-driven demonstrations. It is up to each student to research, access, try, explore and utilize whatever materials, techniques and assistance is needed for the development, construction and installation of their solution to each assignment.

Students may use whatever medium (s) are best to communicate their ideas - as long as materials and processes fit within the student's budget, and can be learned and utilized in time for the completion of the work by the critique deadline. In no way can it compromise, or have compromised, the health and safety of the student or others. (Example: Butterflies – I will elaborate on this).

Each student is responsible for researching, gathering, purchasing and gaining whatever materials and technical skills are necessary for the development, completion and installation of their project by the critique. As this is not a medium-specific course, it is impossible to estimate the cost of this class. There will be expenses and **you must be able to commit resources to this course**. Material needs and expenses will vary from person to person and project to project. You should budget funds for this class commensurate with other art classes.

Instructional Methods

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students' grades will be determined by progress made on individual projects, as well as class, and out-of-class, participation. Students who are actively working, trying, thinking, doing, testing and researching materials, problem solving, as well as actively studying, looking and talking about art and engaging in critiques...are learning.

If you are consistently, and actively, learning by doing - both in and out of class, while pushing yourself and striving for excellence, your efforts will naturally manifest in your work and class participation. Curiosity, ambition, creativity and persistent problem solving – especially through challenging assignments and ideas - is important. Do not give up. Work hard and wisely. Be open to possibilities, keep up and work consistently.

Failure is successfully finding out what doesn't work, which is absolutely necessary to succeed. This is valuable research. Failure requires effort. So yes, fail *a lot*, both in and out of class, and fail wisely. Take note of what did and didn't work, and why. This goes for you, and for others. Google and YouTube are great for this research. Repeat, again

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and again, to achieve success. If something isn't working – stop, and then try something else – a different material or method, until you get the optimal results. Patience and persistence is key.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

A (Excellent) will be given to those projects which undertake and successfully resolve creative and challenging solutions; which demonstrate superior conceptual, expressive, and technical abilities. A sustained and committed work ethic must be evident.

B (Good) will be given to those projects that complete the requirements of the assignment in a creative way, display a good level of technique, and in which a good work ethic is evident.

C (Average) is given to those projects that satisfy the specifications of the assignment on an acceptable level.

D (Passing - Minimum) will be given to those projects which attempt to address the assignment but which demonstrate a lack of understanding, a lack of creativity, poor quality of technique, and minimal effort.

F (Failure) is given to those projects that show a complete lack of understanding, creativity, and effort.

Assessments

75% of your final grade will be based on the completion of 3 assigned projects:

1. The subjectivity of **perception**
2. Seeing, reading, and meaning: **text** in visual art
3. **Time**: its experience and representation in art; artist statement required.

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25% of your final grade will be based on your **participation** in all aspects of the class, particularly as it pertains to attendance, preparation for class, and meaningful involvement in all class discussion, critiques, and exercises.

Your evaluation in this class will be based on the timely involvement with and completion of all work: projects, exercises, reading and writing assignments, and class presentation. The projects are open-ended and responses to each assignment can be infinite. There is no singular, correct solution that should be sought. The success of a work will depend on the quality and integrity of the work and the degree to which it demonstrates the following abilities and skills:

- understanding and knowledge of the relevant issues
- innovativeness and creativity
- appropriate selection and expressive, resolved use of materials and techniques emphasizing excellent craftsmanship
- sustained, consistent work ethic; effective time management skills
- resolved and effective installation of the work at the critique

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I will meet with students individually in class to discuss project grades. Students needing additional guidance in regards to coursework and construction methods are encouraged to email or speak with me so I can answer project questions in person while looking at the assignment the student has completed, or is in the process of completing.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Class participation is required and students are allowed up to four absences. Each absence beyond the allowed three absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade. For example, if your grade adds up to a B at the end of the semester, but you've missed five classes, your final grade in the class will be a C. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Make sure to "budget" your absences wisely. Should you wish to withdrawal from the course, it is up to you to do so before the withdrawal deadlines. You can find withdrawal deadline dates and information online.

If faced with a severe tragedy beyond your control (death of an immediate family member, severe illness or injury requiring weeks of hospitalization, etc.) please let me know as soon as possible. Additional absences and a change in project deadlines can be adjusted on a case-by-case basis when extenuating circumstances exist. Documentation is required in each instance.

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CLASS POLICIES:

Please be on time and come prepared for each class. Should you have questions between meeting times, please let me know through email so I can assist.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, including student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Short and long-term assignments will be introduced one-at-a-time throughout the semester. Due dates will be provided and discussed with the introduction of each assignment.

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