



ARTS 503.01W 23596 Graduate Seminar
Class meetings via Zoom, Wednesdays at 6pm
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021, Online
1/11/2021-5/1/2021
Instructor: Marilyn Thompson

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information,
<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

“A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct. “ “Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.”

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Marilyn R. Thompson, MFA
Office Location: Art Building- room 210 (will be off campus in the spring)
Office Hours: By email M-F 8:00a-5:00p
Office Phone: 903 886-5208 (Best to email)
University Email Address: Marilyn.Thompson@tamuc.edu

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Textbook(s):

Materiality: Documents of Contemporary Art, Edited by Petra Lange-Berndt, Whitechapel, London, and The MIT Press, 2015
ISBN 978-0-262-52809-2

The Studio, Edited by Jens Holtmann, Whitechapel, London, and The MIT Press, 2012, ISBN 9780262517614

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Graduate Seminar

Hours: 3

Graduate Seminar primarily emphasizes research, readings, and writing as a means of understanding historical and contemporary trends in the visual arts and how a student’s work fits

within them. Continuing to learn and studio practices and the art profession, students will work to refine their own artist statement, continue to digitally document their work, and maintain updated websites. Note: students may repeat this course, up to a maximum of nine hours.

This course will consist of two parts

Part 1. Directed research related to the continued development of individual studio projects, and group critiques.

Part 2. A reading program based on a single interdisciplinary topic. The reading program this seminar examines materiality and the artist studio.

Students enrolled in MA or MFA programs only.

STUDIO WORK:

To maintaining rigorous studio activity concentrating on the development and creation of personal artwork. Work generated should be independent of artwork generated for other courses.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, students should be able to show an increased knowledge of issues in the contemporary art world, hone their own artistic voice through the development of a body of work and to refine critical-thinking and verbalization skills from class critiques of studio works and discussions of individual research and reading material and should be able to understand their work and how it relates to history.

Course Requirements

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Students must have access to and understand how to use the following:

- D2L in MyLeo
- Internet access
- Microsoft Word
- Presentation software
- Camera and necessary equipment for photographing personal artwork

Grading Format: Total points- 770 points, A=770-693, B=692-616, C=615-539, D=538-462, F=461-0

Presentations and discussions: 350 total points

Studio Work and critiques: 280 total points

Response papers: 140 total points

GRADING: Your grade will result from an evaluation of the following criteria: projects/ assignments, participation in group critiques, presentations, professional practices. Attendance via Zoom will be considered into your grade; **after two absences, the resulting grade will be a failure of the course.**

1. Presentations (group PowerPoints for chapters and class leadership)
2. Active participation in seminar discussions and critiques
3. Leading effective seminar discussions as seminar moderator, including formation of seminar questions for discussion in advance of the discussion
4. Studio work, both the depth and breadth of your investigations
5. Critical thinking
6. Response papers
7. Tenacity, in terms of studio work, studio research, and willingness to succeed

COURSE STRUCTURE (Methods of Instruction): This class meets once a week via Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:00pm. It encompasses brief lectures, projects, group discussions/critiques, readings/ writing exercises, and group presentation(s). Participation is required and is imperative to your final grade.

SEMINAR MODERATORS: All students will be split into groups and lead their assigned chapter of the required seminar books: *Materiality and/or The Studio*. Discussion moderators are expected to read the required materials thoroughly, to conduct additional research on the topics in question including the artists mentioned in the chapter, and to provide additional relevant materials (additional authors, other pertinent books, additional visual resources, websites, podcasts). However, the focus of the moderator's attention should be on facilitating an in-depth discussion of the ideas and issues raised in the reading materials and assisting the class to link this discussion to previous ones.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

PowerPoint Presentations: Students will work in groups to present and discuss the assigned topics from the text. PowerPoints will be uploaded in D2L

Studio Work: Studio practice is an ongoing independent activity and is not assignment driven but comes from the initiative, research, and investigation of the individual artist. Each artist will present new work using material they normally have not used before at group critiques scheduled during the semester. A response paper is required to discuss the student's artwork presented. The objective with the work is to explore materials that you are not normally familiar with using in your art. If you are an oil painter, you won't use oil paint. The more you experiment and explore different materials the possibility of new ideas.

Seminar Discussions & Response Papers: During the Zoom meetings, be prepared to discuss readings, videos and writing assignments. Students should demonstrate that they have completed the appropriate readings or videos and they have thought carefully about whatever ideas are presented in the readings. A response paper (for the student's artwork) you must respond to the work based on the research without turning it into a soapbox for your opinions. Papers should be typed in Word and include your name, date and topic (the prompt) at the top of the page. Then submitted under Discussions and Assignments. Others in class will review and critique others response papers and add their comments and critiques. In your papers, be sure to include the following: 1. Cite the articles/videos (author/director, title, date source) at the top of the page. 2. Summarize the article first. (About a paragraph). What is the author's/director's main argument? What proof does the author/director give to back up the ideas? What is the author's/director's main points? Next, react and comment on your thoughts about what you have read or seen. Note unclear points or points you agree or disagree with. Note ideas of interest to you or problems with the author's/director's arguments. Most importantly, support your statements and opinions with evidence from the article or videos, just as you support your comments in critiques with physical evidence from an artwork.

LATE WORK: All artwork projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Full participation by showing completed work during all critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

According to the university catalog a minimum of 6 hours of work per week (3 hours in class and 3 hours outside of class) is expected for each class. The work you accomplish in this class will be valuable in your career as an artist.

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.

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. **Don't wait until the last minute to avoid getting work in on time.**

Communication and Support

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please feel free to contact me through email M-F 8:00a-5:00p. Any emails sent on weekends will be addressed first thing on Monday mornings.

Email: Marilyn.Thompson@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Due to the Pandemic, I will be working from home so it is best to email.

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

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](#)

<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.

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.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace (D2L), please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Course and University Procedures/Policies

Late assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted unless you make prior arrangements with the instructor before the due date.

Class participation: Online participation and attendance is **required**. You are expected to upload and turn in assignments on time. During Zoom meetings and D2L discussions, you will be expected to take part. Be an active learner. Be prepared for the discussions and critiques.

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>

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as 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.

Department of Art Attendance Policy

All students are required to regularly participate in online class and attend the Zoom meetings. Art is a practice-based discipline and the learning process requires active participation. Excessive absences may result in the student being administratively dropped from the course. 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>

IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

All students enrolled in face-to-face art courses are required to comply with the procedures and policies of the Department of Art's *Health and Safety Guidelines*. The *Guidelines* cover activities in all A&M-Commerce art facilities on both the main campus and off-campus sites. Please report any safety issues immediately to your instructor(s), facilities technician, health and safety guidelines outlined, studio or lab assistant, or Brandon Hudson, the department's Health and Safety Liaison. At the beginning of each semester in every course, the instructor will discuss with their students the inherent risks associated with art facilities and make sure they have read and completed the online *Health and Safety Guidelines* form.

Department of Art, *Health and Safety Guidelines* <http://sites.tamuc.edu/art/resources/healthandsafety/>

Reading and Safety Form (to be signed online by all students) <https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>

COURSE OUTLINE SCHEDULE:

Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 6:00pm

All Discussions over the readings, PowerPoints, Response Papers, and Artwork will be uploaded to D2L

Week 1: January 13, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Welcome**
- **Course introduction and expectations**
- **Introductions:** Be prepared to share at least 5 of your works of art with the class
- **Reading Assignment: *Materiality/How to Be Complicit with Materials* p 12-23 and *Following the Material* p 24-59**

Week 2: January 20, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Group Presentation:** The assigned group will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss selected artists and information over readings; *Materiality/How to Be Complicit with Materials* p 12-23 and *Following the Material* p 24-59
- **Studio Art assignment:** Create a work of art that addresses the following topic using materials you normally do not use to create your art: *Things Are Not What They Seem*

Week 3: January 27, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **All students:** Presentation of artwork: *Things Are Not What They Seem*
- **Assignment:** Response paper over your art project *Things Are Not What They Seem*. This paper addresses the topic and your choices of the material used and why. Was your project successful or not? The paper only needs to be 1 page long and submitted in Assignments
- **Reading Assignment:** *The Studio/Being the Artist* p 20-69

Week 4: February 3, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Group Presentation:** The assigned group will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss selected artists and information over readings; *The Studio/Being the Artist p 20-69*
- **Studio Art assignment:** Create a work of art that addresses the following topic using materials you normally do not use to create your art: *Pandemic Madness*
- **Reading Assignment:** *Materiality/The Living Fire of Labour* p 60-87

Week 5: February 10, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **All students:** Presentation of artwork: *Pandemic Madness*
- **Assignment:** Response paper over your art project *Pandemic Madness*. This paper addresses the topic and your choices of the material used and why. Was your project successful or not? The paper only needs to be 1 page long and submitted in Assignments
- **Reading Assignment:** *Materiality/ Formless Blobs and Trash Flows* p 88-117

Week 6: February 17, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Group Presentation:** The assigned group will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss selected artists and information over readings; *Materiality/ The Living Fire of Labour p 60-87* and *Formless Blobs and Trash Flows* p 88-117
- **Studio Art assignment:** Create a work of art that addresses the following topic using material you normally do not use to create your art: *Extraordinarily Ordinary*
- **Reading Assignment:** *The Studio/ Working with the Situation p 70-121*

Week 7: February 24, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **All students:** Presentation of artwork: *Extraordinarily Ordinary*
- **Assignment:** Response paper over your art project: *Extraordinarily Ordinary*. This paper addresses the topic and your choices of the material used and why. Was your project successful or not? The paper only needs to be 1 page long and submitted in Assignments
- **Reading Assignment:** *Materiality/ Bodies that Matter* p 118-143

Week 8: March 3, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Group Presentation:** The assigned group will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss selected artists and information over readings; *Materiality/ Bodies that Matter* p 118-143 and *The Studio/ Working with the Situation* p 70-121

- **Studio Art assignment:** Create a work of art that addresses the following topic using material you normally do not use to create your art: **Fake News**
- **Reading Assignment: *The Studio/ Retracing the Steps*** p 122-179

Week 9: March 10, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **All students:** Presentation of artwork: **Fake News**
- **Assignment:** Response paper over your art project: **Fake News**. This paper addresses the topic and your choices of the material used and why. Was your project successful or not? The paper only needs to be 1 page long and submitted in Assignments
- **Reading Assignment: *Materiality/ Nature after Nature*** p 144-167

Week 10: March 17, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Group Presentation:** The assigned group will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss selected artists and information over readings; ***Materiality/ Nature after Nature*** p 144-167 and ***The Studio/ Retracing the Steps*** p 122-179
- **Studio Art assignment:** Create a work of art that addresses the following topic using material you normally do not use to create your art: **Upside Down**
- **Reading Assignment: *Materiality/ Rematerialization of the Void*** p 168-197

Week 11: March 24, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **All students:** Presentation of artwork: **Upside Down**
- **Assignment:** Response paper over your art project: **Upside Down**. This paper addresses the topic and your choices of the material used and why. Was your project successful or not? The paper only needs to be 1 page long and submitted in Assignments

Week 12: March 31, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Group Presentation:** The assigned group will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss selected artists and information over readings; ***Materiality/ Rematerialization of the Void*** p 168-197
- **Studio Art assignment:** Create a work of art that addresses the following topic using material you normally do not use to create your art: **Ugly Beautiful**

Week 13: April 7, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **All students:** Presentation of artwork: **Ugly Beautiful**
- **Assignment:** Response paper over your art project: **Ugly Beautiful**. This paper addresses the topic and your choices of the material used and why. Was your project successful or not? The paper only needs to be 1 page long and submitted in Assignments
- **Reading Assignment: *The Studio, Facing the World*** p 180-223
- **Reading Assignment: *Materiality/ Materialities of Media*** p 198-225

Week 14: April 14, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Group Presentation:** The assigned group will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss selected artists and information over readings; ***The Studio, Facing the World*** p 180-223 and ***Materiality/ Materialities of Media*** p 198-225
- **Studio Art assignment:** Create a work of art that addresses the following topic using material you normally do not use to create your art: **Me**

Week 15: April 21, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **All students: Presentation of artwork: *Me***
- **Assignment:** Response paper over your art project: *Me*. This paper addresses the topic and your choices of the material used and why. Was your project successful or not? The paper only needs to be 1 page long and submitted in Assignments

Week 16: April 28, Zoom meeting, Wednesday at 6:00pm

- **Conclusion**