

## Master of Fine Arts Exhibition in Visual Communication - ARTS 552 Casey McGarr

### Course Syllabus

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Instructor: Casey McGarr, Associate Professor Visual Communication  
Office Location: 1918  
Office Hours: By appointment only: phone or email  
Office Phone: 214-954-3636  
Email: casey.mcgarra@tamuc.edu

### Class Information

Credit hours: 6.0

Meeting times: Meets 6 pm-10 pm, Tuesday and Thursday, June 08, 2021 - July 08, 2021

Meeting location: Virtual Zoom

### Suggested Textbooks And Resources

- Various sources identified through the student's research, or sources suggested by thesis committee members germane to the progress and direction of the thesis research and exhibition agenda.
- Other significant 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 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 thesis direction
- Explore and expand your current thesis research and incorporate results into your exhibition and final paper
- Receive guidance in facilitating your exhibition concerning 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 is your show to enjoy!

If you fall behind, run like hell to catch up! Also, please let me know if you need to come to see me. I am here to help.

### Class Policy

Computers, cell-phones, earbuds, or other personal technology. Devices may not be turned on or used in class without the permission of the instructor. First offense: (a pass) Subsequent offense (s): (this will affect your participation grade)

### Absence Policy

- You may be absent from class twice.
- On your first absence, you will receive an e-mail warning
- On your second absence, you will receive an e-mail
- 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 equal an absence.
- A tardy of 60 minutes equals an absence.
- Two late returns from the break of more than 10 minutes equal 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.

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#### Grading Scale

A 90 to 100 points: Excellent (superior effort and results above and beyond)

B 80 to 89 points: Good (significant effort and hard work)

C 70 to 79 points: Average (minimal class requirements met)

D 60 to 69 points: Below Average (below class average expectations)

F 50 to 59 points: Poor (inferior work and attitude)

In addition to project, quiz and test grades, students final grade will also be based on critique participation and application, work ethic, and attitude. All exercises and projects are given with weekly steps to be accomplished by the beginning of the next class meeting. Meeting these mini-deadlines is part of the overall assignment and plays a significant role in project grades. All work is due on the assigned date. Projects are due at the beginning of class. Late work is not accepted, so plan for a disaster and allow your self as much time as possible to complete your assignment.

#### Grade Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on an average of all assignments, attendance, and participation grade. The participation grade is based on dedication to methodology application, conceptual thinking ability, craftsmanship, daily class involvement and contributions to your classmates, as well as both a desire and capacity to show progress and meet deadlines from week to week. Grades will be discussed on an individual basis by office appointment only—not in class please Note: Violations of class policy concerning the unauthorized use of computers, cell-phones, ear-buds, or other technology will result in point deductions from the current assignment. The instructor reserves the right to alter this policy if class disruptions become an on-going problem and class distraction.

#### 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

#### 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](mailto: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.

#### 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

#### Course And University Procedures/Policies

##### 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.

#### 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>

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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

**Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

**Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto: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/rules>

[Procedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rules/Procedures/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.

**A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

**Department of Art, Health & Safety Guidelines**

<https://sites.tamuc.edu/art/resources/healthandsafety/>

**Health & Safety Form (to be signed online by all students in studio courses)**

<https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy><https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>