



ARTS 503.01E
GRAD SEMINAR:
Methodologies for Creative Practice-based Research
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Laurel Jay Carpenter
Office Location:	Art Office
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Creative practice-based research explores a specific “research question” via creative processes and/or the product of a creative endeavor. It is commonly employed in art and design projects which construct the terminal degree in art practice (MFA). MFA candidates undertaking a practice-based research project will likely need to review both academic and non-academic resources in order to provide evidence to support their studio investigations.

For the degree, candidates are expected to build a new body of exhibition-ready work, while incorporating an apparatus (scholarly or otherwise) that enables other researchers (including your committee) to assess the significance of the results and the methods through which they are achieved (resulting in a written document, the “extended artist statement”). Both of these components are guided by your initial, and evolving, research question. The practice must be an integral part of your proposed research, and the creative aspects of the project are forefront.

To focus our exploration in this first semester—using readings, critical discussion, and in-field investigations/experiments—we will delve into research methodologies used in the arts. We will ask: what is the vital ingredient that turns practice into research? Is it always one-and-the-same?

For this Seminar, you will be asked to investigate some tested research methodologies (as related to your practice) and present your discoveries. Please see the separate Schedule for the sequence and

timeline. The dissemination of your findings, in this course, does not have to be written/academic documents, per se. Is it possible to share your discoveries/expanded understandings via the same research methods employed? In each group meeting, there will be time for your presentation (whatever the format) plus discussion/Q+A—to allow for a linear/verbal understanding of your approach. In either the “methodologically matching” part or in the “verbal support” (discussion) part of the presentation you must reference the reading provided and/or a parallel source document.

Books Required

All chapters/articles provided in D2L and off-line.

Caveat

Additional readings/resources and the shape of our discourse may shift as presentations, discussion and shared interests lead in new and unexpected directions. I will always be clear with expectations and deadlines. I hope you are willing to allow this seminar to be organic, dynamic and open to new discoveries.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate effective communication about the readings associated with methodological principles as related to their own research and practice.
2. Students will gain an awareness of a broader art discourse and its positioning culturally, in terms of creative research as a site of knowledge- and meaning-making.
3. Students will demonstrate a more comprehensive understanding of their own working methods and research methodologies within the broad field of practice-based research, and be able to articulate a research topic, a research question and their findings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Access to D2L and Zoom
Reliable Internet connection

Instructional Methods and Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to attend class “discussion ready” having read the text closely, marked points of interest, written notes to remember flow/associations, discussed with colleagues, and formulated (rhetorical) questions. This is not a lecture class with the professor doing all the talking. This is a discussion seminar, with expectations of extended student-driven investigation of additional writings/artists’ works/points of significance to bring into the conversations and to support your presentation of findings.

Students are also expected to meet as a course cohort outside of class meetings. This is to support open-ended discussion, untangling the issues raised in the readings and urging methodological investigations, plus garnering support for your short-term projects.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale, **although for Grad Programs, a grade of C is not permissible for advancement to the next stage.**

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

EACH METHODOLOGY >

Reflective Research	15%
Visual/Material Research	15%
Scholarly Research	15%
Experiential/Performative Research	15%
Interdisciplinary Research	15%
Action Research	15%
Participation in Discussion/Feedback	5%
Final Research Questions	5%
TOTAL	100%

Assessment

Your work and activity in the course will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Your self-motivated, sustained and thoughtful attention to the readings, and the reflection of that attentiveness in the quality in your in-class discussion and related presentations.
2. Your genuine commitment to the course as reflected in your:
 - Attendance and preparedness for each meeting
 - Quality of the presentations in terms of thoroughness and follow-through
 - Active participation: expanding the discussion through shared resources
 - Honoring of due dates

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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.

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>

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>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 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/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormId.pdf>

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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.

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

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

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