ART 232.01: Printmaking I - Relief / Screen Printing

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ART 232-1 - PRINTMAKING I: RELIEF/SCREENPRINTING  Professor: ELIZABETH DOVE
Tue/Thu 4:10 – 7:00, Fall 2003
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Office Hours Wed. 1-3, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Description
This course offers an introduction to two printmaking disciplines - relief printing and screenprinting - and we will discuss the techniques and aesthetic issues of each. Demonstrations of new processes are scheduled every week for most of the semester, and are supplemented by additional impromptu demonstrations as specific student needs arise. Class attendance is therefore vital. As the semester progresses, students should gain awareness of the creative and expressive possibilities of fine art printmaking, and begin to develop a personal vocabulary. The amount of information presented this semester will not allow for mastery of every technique. Mastery is not an expectation. What is expected is that each student will attempt each process, and that these experiments demonstrate progress in both technical application and (particularly) a growing awareness of print aesthetics. Students should begin the appreciate the differences not only between printmaking and other art processes, but the subtle differences between relief and screenprinting, and when each might be appropriately used to match a student’s aesthetic goals.

Coursework
Specific projects will be detailed on a weekly basis; the attached calendar for Art 232 will give an idea of the pacing and project expectations. We will begin with screenprinting, experimenting with both hand drawn and photo-processes. We will then explore relief, working with different materials (wood, linoleum, and Sintra) and different approaches (hand and press printing; monochrome and color printing). We finish with an Artists Book project and a final thematic exchange portfolio combining relief and screenprinting. Editions and projects cannot be completed satisfactorily during classtime alone. You should probably plan to spend at least six hours outside of class time working on assignments each week. Group critiques will coincide with the completion of assigned projects.

Students are required to evaluate their art, communicate verbally about their reasons for making their art, and understand criticism given by others.

To be successful in this class, each student must:
- Attend and participate in all scheduled classes.
- Actively participate in critiques (sitting silent and still is not participation).
- Complete all assignments on time, including the final portfolio.
- Keep notes on technical information.
- Help to maintain a safe, clean and organized printshop that every student can use.

Attendance
Attendance at all classes is mandatory. After three unexcused absences your grade will drop by one letter grade per absence, up to six absences when a failing grade is issued automatically. Come to class ready to work, students are not to leave class to purchase supplies. Demonstrations missed will not be repeated for the absent student. The absent student must obtain the notes from another student on the missed demonstrations.
Safety
The printshop contains hazardous materials and equipment. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be read prior to using hazardous materials. All safe-handling procedures for both materials and equipment must be strictly followed. There is no eating in the printshop, and drinks must be in covered containers. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE, i.e. - gloves and goggles) must be used at all times in accordance with the safety demonstrations.

Evaluation
Mid-term evaluation will be Tuesday, October 14, and is a review of the all proofs and editioned prints completed to date, and a written self-evaluation summarizing work and isolating strengths and weaknesses. Final evaluation is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, and consists of a review of all of the assigned projects, participation in the student-led critique of the final projects, and participation in the final studio clean-up. The last day of scheduled class time will include a mandatory studio clean-up - you are required to attend to pass this course. A grade will be assigned after all aspects of this final evaluation are complete.

Grading
Simply showing up and completing all assignments does not equal an “A”. However, if you attend class, complete all projects on time, actively participate in critiques and discussions, ask questions, take notes, show care towards the studio and the artists working within it, and demonstrate motivation, technical growth and aesthetic development - you will succeed in Printmaking I.

Three factors will be considered in the determination of grades.

1) The quality of the product, including inventiveness, sensitivity to materials, technical comprehension, compositional effectiveness, and idea development in relation to the assignment. 50%

2) The quality of the learning process, including risks taken, range of ideas explored, contributions to class, attendance, effective use of class time, enthusiasm and the amount of work done. 40%

3) Professional demeanour in print studio as evidenced by clean work habits, the proper treatment of equipment, attention to the studio space, and participation in the final studio clean-up 10%

A = Excellence in all assignments, highly motivated, extremely innovative solutions to projects
B = Above average in all work, demonstrated technical growth and visual maturity
C = Completion of all projects, satisfactory class participation
D = Incompletes on some projects, inadequate class participation
F = Incompletes on many projects, poor class participation, several unexcused absences

Incompletes
It is the student’s responsibility to complete the coursework within the semester the class is offered. Not finishing the required work within the allotted time frame does not entitle a student to an incomplete. Incompletes will only be given in cases of extreme emergency.