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ARTZ 499.01: Senior Thesis - Capstone

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Senior Thesis UG ARTZ499, 3 credits
FA Building 302, T/TH, 12:40-2:00
Spring Semester 2016
School of Art, University of Montana

Professor: Cathryn Mallory

Office: Gallery of Visual Arts, Social Science Bldg.

Phone: 243-2813

Email: cathryn.mallory@umontana.edu

Office Hours: T/Th 11-12 or by appointment (it is best to make an appointment)

Prerequisite:

Senior status, ARTZ 494, and successful passage of BFA review. This course is required for all graduating BFA students.

Course Description:

This course will be split into two sections; preparation for the required Spring BFA exhibition and advanced professional practices. However, the main focus will center on the BFA exhibitions. This class will be conducted in a lecture/seminar format. Students will have the opportunity for input about additional topics covered in this class. Guest speakers, hands-on workshops, class discussions and demonstrations will supplement lectures.

Course Objectives:

- Students will be responsible for creating a professionally presented body of work for the BFA exhibition.
- Students will learn all phases of mounting a professional exhibition, including publicity, presentation, design, installation, education and evaluation through full hands-on participation.
- Students will learn a variety of marketing strategies and become aware of best business practices for managing and developing a career in the visual arts.
- Students will learn how to ship and handle works of art in a professional manner.
- Students will gain a basic understanding of legal issues related to the arts.
- Students will learn how to research, and successfully apply for related opportunities to further their career.

Text(s) and Materials:

Handouts, assigned research, art periodicals. The course syllabus, calendar, readings, and assignments will be posted on Moodle (<http://umonline.umt.edu/>).

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to complete all assignments, attend all class lectures, maintain a resource notebook, and actively participate in discussions and committee assignments, as well as contribute to the overall culture of the class. All students must participate in the BFA exhibition to receive credit for this class and fulfill the School of Art Bachelor of Fine Arts degree requirements.

BFA Exhibit: April 28-May 13 (GVA), April 25-May 13 (UC)

The BFA exhibit is considered a professionally installed exhibition and is similar to all other exhibits that are scheduled in the Gallery of Visual Arts in regard to deadlines, contractual agreements, and required support materials. Therefore, it is required that you adhere to all deadlines and requirements in a responsible and professional manner. **FAILURE TO MEET THESE DEADLINES MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF EXHIBITION SPACE!**

It is understood that the Director of the Gallery of Visual Arts makes all final curatorial decisions regarding exhibited work, placement and publicity materials.

Students are expected to be fully prepared for all aspects of the exhibition including: completed artwork and required support materials; professional presentation of work; installation of your own work and help with overall exhibit layout; adherence to arranged gallery schedule for installation, take down, and needed gallery repairs. You may need to reschedule other commitments at this time. **A flexible, supportive attitude is a must.**

Faculty Mentor:

All students must select a full-time faculty member as their primary faculty mentor. The faculty mentor will work with the student in preparation for the BFA exhibit. Students may select more than one if desired. **STUDENTS MUST OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THE FACULTY MENTOR.**

Students must meet with their faculty mentor(s) to discuss their work and review their artist statement at least twice before the exhibition. It is the student's responsibility to schedule these appointments with the faculty mentor and secure their signature to meet the following deadlines. It is also understood that your faculty mentor may wish to meet with you more often than the course required deadlines.

February 25: First review of work and artist statement with mentor to be completed. Please submit artist statement signed and dated by faculty mentor stating that they have reviewed both your work and statement.

March 31: Second review of work and artist statement with mentor to be completed. Please submit artist statement signed and dated by faculty mentor stating that they have reviewed both your work and revised statement.

Individual Studio Visit:

Students must schedule an individual studio visit with me PRIOR to the installation of their exhibit and **no later than April 14**. This is an opportunity to get additional feedback, discuss presentation concerns and special considerations. This is also an important part of the pre-planning of the exhibit design and installation. Some class time will be set aside for these appointments. **It is the student's responsibility to schedule the appointment.**

Midterm Project: on or before March 24. No late proposals will be accepted

Submit a complete, proposal for a professional opportunity, such as an artist residency, exhibition, internship, job in the arts, teaching in an arts education program, graduate school OR whatever is relevant to your own individual plans for the immediate future. More information about requirements will be provided.

Interview with Art Criticism student: April 12 and 14

You must be available to meet with an assigned student from Professor Valerie Hedquist's Introduction to Art Criticism course. These students will be conducting interviews and doing evaluation papers on your artwork in the BFA exhibit. Time will be set aside for these interviews and studio visits during class April 12 and 14. More details will be provided.

Participation, Attendance, and Absence Policy:

Participation is crucial for successful completion of this course and will be factored into the final grade. Attendance will be taken and announcements given at the beginning of class, so please be on time. **After 3 absences, your grade will drop by one letter grade per absence.** Being sick does not count as an excused absence, (with exception to extreme circumstances that must be approved by the instructor). **Three late arrivals or early departures will result in one absence.** If you miss any part or all of a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

Students with unavoidable time schedule conflicts must get preapproval for any missed classes, late arrivals or early departures. It is the student's responsibility to inform themselves of announcements, assignments, deadlines, and discussions presented in any missed class time. It is also agreed that these students may be required to do additional work outside of class to meet course objectives.

Electronic Devices:

NO CELL PHONES or other electronic devices are allowed in class. If you are in the midst of an emergency, please communicate with me about the situation to be granted an exception.

Access, Special Needs, and Disabilities:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DDS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson Center 154. Please contact me immediately and I will try to work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Grading and Assessment:

Grading will be based on participation, attitude, professionalism and completion of all assignments. Each assignment will be assessed on how well you met the objectives. A criteria sheet will be provided for all assignments. In addition to assignments and participation, I will be grading you on your professionalism regarding all preparation and installation aspects of the BFA exhibit. All late assignments will be docked a full letter grade. I will not accept work that has been turned in for another course.

It is **not possible to receive an A** in this course if you miss any of the deadlines or do not complete all coursework that has been assigned.

End of semester grades will not be released until students have passed their final BFA studio inspection and completed all de-installation requirements of their Senior Thesis Exhibition.

BFA Exhibit (all related responsibilities) = 40%

Assignments, class participation and attendance = 30%

Mid-term Project = 30%

Fine Arts Building Hours:

The use of art studio space requires current enrollment in a specific studio course, as course fees are used for purchase of supplies. Those not currently enrolled will be asked to leave. **Hours are 7am-11pm daily.**

BFA Studios:

Having a BFA studio is an honor and a privilege. Remember, this is a "borrowed" studio space that has been provided for you as a place of sanctuary and creative energy. Please take good care of all of the provided equipment (lights, tables, chairs) and remember it must be returned in the same or better condition. All students must adhere to the posted health and safety standards in each specialized studio area. Please do not leave valuable equipment or materials in your studio unattended. The School of Art is not responsible for lost or stolen valuables. Students that do not adhere to studio guidelines will be given a warning. After one warning, any other infractions may result in loss of studio space. Above all, **please respect your studio mates** and make all reasonable effort to keep your area clean. Make art and enjoy the luxury of your studio!

Health and Safety:

- Materials, tools and equipment to be used must be in accordance with studio policy.
- No creatures or children will be allowed in studios during class time or open studio times.

- No food or open beverage containers will be allowed in the School of Art facilities when art making is in progress.
- Studio clean up is REQUIRED.
- Pick-up of artwork must take place by the instructor's scheduled date. Pieces remaining after this time will be discarded. Artwork may not be left in the Art Office.

Student Involvement and Announcements:

- The University of Montana Artist Collective (UMAC)
- The University of Montana Emerging Ceramic Artists (UMECA)
- Events in the School of Art, www.umt.edu/art/ or umartdepartment.wordpress.com
- Gallery of Visual Arts
- UC Gallery
- Montana Museum of Art & Culture
- Exhibitions in Missoula, please support your local galleries, museums and colleagues.

Academic Conduct:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321 .