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ARTZ 105A: Visual Language

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Course Information

The University of Montana, School of Art

Web newsletter: umartdepartment.wordpress.com

UG ARTZ 105A – not repeatable – section 01 – Visual Language – 3 credits

No pre-requisites

General education course with ‘A’ designation; Art major/minor prerequisite

Instructor Information

Mary Ann Bonjorni: 406-243-5443

Maryann.bonjorni@umontana.edu

Office: Fine Arts 303B

Office hours: Wednesdays 11-12 or by appointment (after class is good)

Class Meetings

11:00-1:00, Tuesday and Thursday, FA 401

Text(s)

None, although outside research may be assigned

Materials

A starter kit of materials is provided with the \$40.00 lab fee. Additional materials will be announced in class and purchased by the individual. Course drawing materials packets and BEE drawing paper pads can be picked up at the UM bookstore art supplies area the beginning of the second week of classes. You are to purchase your own drawing board for under \$8.00 and cardboard portfolio for under \$5.00.

Course Description

Visual Language is an introduction to drawing, concept development, and studio practicum. Focus is on developing basic skills in rendering/volume, pictorial depth, figure-ground relationships, the formal elements and design principles; research in historical and contemporary approaches to drawing.

Course Objectives and Format

- Introduction and application of the formal elements and design principles
- To gain proficiency in rendering
- To gain proficiency in visual communication of concepts through drawing
- Participate in critical assessment
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Most lectures, handouts, and critiques will take place at the beginning of class. Studio practicum takes up the larger portion of the class time. Students should be prepared to listen carefully, take notes, be present the entire two hours, and apply classroom instruction *independently*. For three credits there are four hours of scheduled studio contact and a minimum of five additional unscheduled hours to be spent preparing work, reading, attending outside art events.

Policies and other information

Cell phones are not allowed in class

Assessment and Grading

In order to qualify for a letter grade you must complete the P/NP requirements. Your final grade will reflect averaging your midterm worth 25 % with work completed after the midterm worth 25%, then taking this outcome and averaging in your FINAL worth 50% (the final assignment TBA). As most students show significant improvement in the later part of this class, *the final project is crucial to the overall letter grade.*

A = Excellent
B = Above Average
C = Average
D = Below Average
F = Failed no point(s)

Your grade is primarily based upon comparison to other work within this class with some consideration given for personal improvement.

Attendance

More than three absences, continual tardiness, or leaving early may result in a lower overall letter grade for this course. If you miss class contact another student for what was covered.

Double Credit Work

None accepted

Special Needs

Students with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor.

Announcements

It is the student's responsibility to write down information regarding the class calendar, handouts, exhibitions, lectures, readings, and any requirement changes.

Building Hours

The use of School of Art studio labs requires current enrollment in a studio course. Hours are 7:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Course Calendar

Course calendars list course activities including assignments and due dates. However, the calendar is subject to change, announced in class and marked on a master calendar posted in 401. If you miss class, be sure and check the calendar.

Health, safety, clean up

- First aid kits, dust masks, gloves, and eye protection are located near the sink area

- Studio clean up occurs after each class time or work session as well as required during the regular scheduled finals time
- **All work and materials must take place before 12:00 noon Friday of final's week. Any work left will be discarded.**
- Campus/ local call phones are located fourth floor east & first floor lobby.
- Campus security is x6131 and campus escort service is x2777

P/NP Requirements

This section of 105A requires preparedness, class participation in discussions, and attending outside of class art events. All students must pass all the P/NP requirements to qualify for a letter grade; see below:

- **Preparedness:** Have your drawings ready to hang for all scheduled due dates. This means they have been spray fixed and have masking or linen tape on the backside corners and/or backside perimeter, and that you have plenty of clear pushpins to hang your drawings. Have your paper and drawing tools ready to go by 15 minutes past the starting hour; giving both you and myself time for setting up. Drawings may be spray fixed outside or in the spray booth, 401A.
- **Class participation in discussions:** Class critiques are open discussion for all students. Bring something to write with and something to write on to all critiques and be prepared to reflect in writing and verbally to the artwork.
- **Art Events:** It is required to attend outside of class arts events to equal 20 points. Become familiar with the list of museums and galleries from the ART EVENTS handout. Events 1-10 are collected at midterm and a comprehensive list of 1-20 the last day of classes.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or 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.

Art Events Worksheet

Students in my courses are required to attend out of class art related events such as visiting artist lectures, workshops and exhibitions to earn a total of 20 points. For listings of local exhibitions, log onto umartdepartment.wordpress.com, click onto the Blog site, check out the *Entertainer*, and keep your radar on for postings around the art building. Start a WORD document and list the following in order for each event:

- Points awarded
- Date attended
- Name of entity and/or event attended
- One thought in 1-3 sentences – positive or negative; this is a record of your immediate reaction to a work of art, followed by why/what is it in the work that caused you to feel and/or think this way. Complete sentences are preferred, but I am also open to your incomplete thoughts.

SAMPLE

1 point – September 2 – Gallery of Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition - I learned I never want to draw like Mary Ann Bonjorni because the mark making is too wild, however I liked the dude falling from the top of the picture plane towards the bottom and that made me think of Copernicus falling through the night sky and how science offers infinite explanations on the universe and what Art can be

Points 1- 10 (or more) are to be printed off and turned in at midterm and comprehensive point listings 1-20 are printed out and turned in the last regular class of the semester. A point listing is provided below however feel free to ask about related events not listed.

Point values are as follows:

- **Three points** for national/international museums in metropolitan areas (New York, L.A., Seattle, Portland, etc. bring your student I.D. for discount admission fee)
- **Two points** per visit to the Montana Museum of Art and Culture/ Paxson and Meloy galleries, The Art Museum of Missoula downtown on Pattee Street, and other regional museums such as The Holter (Helena), The Yellowstone (Billings), etc.
- **One point** for Brink Gallery, approved out-of-town galleries, MAM Artini, visiting artist's lecturers, workshops, UC Gallery exhibitions, GVA exhibitions, alternative spaces such as New West, Frontier Space, Clay Studio, Dana Gallery, some performance-like music events, installations/shows in the Off Center Gallery
- **One point each up to 3 points total for any College of Fine and Performing Arts** events such as the dance showcase, theatrical events, etc.
- **One third point recorded in groups of 3**, for local galleries such as Zoo Town, The Center, The Catalyst, Bernice's Bakery, Food for Thought, Butterfly Herbs and/or alternate spaces not already listed.