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MART 210.01: Creation of Media Story

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School of Visual and Media Arts,
MART 210 sec. 01
Creation of Media Story
3cr//pre-req. none
Fall 2021

Professor Michael Murphy aka Snagglepuss
Office: MCG 229
Office hours: W 1:00-3:00 or by appt.
Email: michael.murphy@mso.umt.edu
T.A. Trevor Blauth:
trevor.blauth@umconnect.umt.edu

Course meeting times: TR 11:00-12:20
McGill 121 or [Zoom Link](#), password: 520752

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A journey into the heart of the creative process, this class will help you to find your unique voice as a storyteller and artist through writing and visualization techniques that generate distinctive content for fiction, documentary and experimental works.

OBJECTIVES

It can be easy to fall into a pattern of getting your ideas for film, documentary and art from the conventions we've seen in media and art throughout our lives. Imitation is one way of learning, but the goal of this class is to find material that is resonant and uniquely our own. This requires us to get past the usual images we've been bombarded with, and down to personal connections with characters, images and themes. Once we are able to do this we can learn how to develop these ideas and experiences into forms suitable for our artistic purposes. The tools found during the class can, therefore, be carried into any personal or collaborative project.

OUTCOMES

At the end of the course we will each have

- created an archive of written stories.
- drawn numerous image and cartoon sequences.
- developed the ability to slow down and develop patience with the process of emerging works.
- experience in non-linear collaborative processes.
- a beginning knowledge of traditional screenwriting format and writing for visual media.
- an understanding of the connection between images and the written word in the generation of story and meaning

REQUIRED MATERIALS will be listed in the course shell online.

GRADING

Attendance & Participation: 28%

Journals: 38%

4 section projects: 20%

Final Book: 15%

* Total 101%

Attendance & Participation In Class

This class cannot function without your presence — physically/mentally/emotionally, and in whatever other ways you can be fully present. You are expected to come to class prepared to jump in.

At the beginning of each class, we will draw a 2-minute self-portrait. This is how we take attendance. **If you miss the self-portrait drawing time, you are late. Three late appearances = 1 absence. You will earn 2 points per class you attend toward your attendance & participation grade. There is one free absence (no points deducted), and then after that you'll lose points per absence, which can majorly impact your final grade. More than 5 unexcused absences means a FAIL OUT.** Showing your work in class and completing in class activities will help you earn full participation points.

Assignments and Projects

Each class meeting you'll receive a page detailing your assignment info and required readings. The following section gives an overview of the types of assignments you will complete during the course.

Your Journal

You will keep your journal in composition books throughout the semester.

What's in it?

The journal is one of the most important aspects of your experience in this class! Your journal is where you complete and keep in-class activities, homework responses, other assignments, and anything else you want to collect, consider, and remember. Carry it with you all the time. Paste, draw, paint and write things in and on it. Make it a document of your semester: what you're seeing and thinking about. You will be glad you have it in the near and far future.

The Quick Diary

To get anything out of this experience, you must keep up with your journal regularly. If you wait until the last minute to work before a journal collection deadline, you're cheating yourself! Treat yourself instead. But the bare minimum must be there! And that is where the Quick Diary Format comes in.

Reading

Throughout the semester we will read a variety of texts from a range of artists' writing, short fiction, and poetry. These readings are carefully chosen to complement our in class exercises and it is essential that we all share in the experience of reading the texts carefully each week.

We will not always discuss assigned readings in class, but your **journal** should evidence your engagement with the assigned readings.

Journal Grading

Quantity

Journal Minimum to get a C: You do the **2.2 pages per day** and complete at least 1 composition books for the semester.

Journal Minimum to get a B: Complete 2 journals for the semester (**4.4 pages per day**).

Journal minimum to get an A: 3 journals for the semester (**6.6 pages per day**).

Quality

Your journal will be graded with a check, check +, or check -, depending on evidence of effort and completeness. Please note: your homework responses won't always be checked/discussed in class, but they will be checked in your journal!

Section Projects

The class is divided into 4 sections. The first section's "project" will be to turn in your Journal and make sure that you're on the right track! Each 3-week section after that will culminate with a project of some sort connecting to what we've been working through, adding up to the 4 projects described above.

Final Project

Your final project will be a book that will be made of a combination of things made during class, assignments, and your journals.

Communications

Feel free to contact David or me through our UM emails. You will have the link to my office hours in Zoom and you can ask for an appointment if that time doesn't work.

Please read me, I'm the very important ELECTRONICS POLICY

No electronic devices of any sort are permitted during our course meetings. If you have them with you, they must be turned off and stored in your bag. They should not be visible or audible at any point during the course meeting. Repeated violations will result in being marked down for an unexcused absence. If you feel you have a need for an electronic device, please talk to me and we can consider how to work it out.

Accessibility

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). 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 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

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

http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php

Deadlines

Don't miss them.

Class Rules

- We always bring our art supplies and journals to every class
- Only write your actual name, your character name, and date on the backs of drawings/ coloring pages/stories/whatever else
- There are **NO** electronic devices used during class time or in the realization of any project unless prescribed specifically!
- We sit in a different seat for each class beside different classmates.
- We make no comments before or after class on the quality of any piece of writing or drawing.
- We fill up our composition books and then start another!

BASIC SCHEDULE

Weeks 1 – 2 Into the Jungle

Collecting, exploring, meditating, slowing, remembering, looking, listening, recording, imagining, gazing, dreaming, tasting, touching, smelling and so forth.

Turning in your Journal after class Tuesday Sept 14. You'll get it back in class the 16th.

Weeks 3 – 5 The Drawing Board

*Letting go of results, tapping into the subconscious, reveling in the power of the ordinary. Creating short comics and stories. **Project due: Sept. 30***

Weeks 6 – 8 Experiments with Fiction

How do we move from memory to fiction and how are the two related or different?

Project due: Oct. 21

Weeks 9 – 13 Story Construction Zone

*Returning from the Sea of the Subconscious. Shaping our image worlds and stories, trying to look cool in safety glasses. **Project due: Nov. 23***

Weeks 14 – 15 – Finals: Building Your Book

You've been creating a lot this semester. Now it's time to organize it and make your book, which will be a combination of stories, drawings from in class assignments as well as your journals.

Thursday, December 16, 10:10-12:10

Final CLASS MEETING

Sharing our final books with each other!

AND LASTLY, SOME COVID PROTOCOLS!

- Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. We will continue to provide Zoom support as well as in-person instruction.
- **UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.**
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.