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ARTZ 271A.01: Printmaking I - Artist Books

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Artists Books

Professor: James Bailey

My office hours are 12:00-1:00 on Mondays, and by appointment in FA 402. My office telephone number is 243-2691, email: james.bailey@umontana.edu or leave a message in my box in the Art Office. Class time is 10:10 - 12:00, M,W with an additional five hours a week which is required outside of class.

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the book arts techniques and aesthetic issues. Demonstrations of new processes are scheduled every week, and are supplemented by additional impromptu demonstrations as specific student needs arise. Class attendance is therefore vital. As the course progresses, students should gain awareness of the creative and expressive possibilities of the book arts, 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 are 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 book aesthetics.

BLOGS

I will be posting project information and updates on: www.book-tana.blogspot.com and on Moodle. You can also check: www.printana.blogspot.com You should check both these sites on a regular basis to check what materials are needed for classes, project deadlines as well as additional readings.

Course work:

Specific projects will be detailed on a weekly basis; the attached calendar will give an idea of the pacing and project expectations. Projects cannot be completed satisfactorily during class time alone. 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 collaborative piece. Keep notes on technical information. Help to maintain a safe, clean and organized print shop that every student can use.

Course Objectives:

- * Engage in a critical dialogue on art and book arts to include panel discussions on relevant art issues.
- * Develop an understanding of the book arts historically as well as it's myriad of contemporary manifestations.
- * Learn and explore a range of bookbinding methods, materials and techniques from traditional to experimental.
- * Develop ideas for an independent body that defines, explores and realizes your artistic expression.
- * Develop skills to talk about images, content, and technique in regards to the book arts.

Attendance:

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. After three absences your grade will drop by one letter grade per absence, up to six absences when a failing grade is issued automatically. (Being sick does not count as an excused absence). 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. If you are absent from class it is YOUR responsibility to get any missed information from another student, and you will be required to meet any deadlines set. Showing up late or leaving early from class will also affect your grade in a negative manner.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones are not to be turned on or used during class. If your cell phone goes off during class, you will be counted absent for that day.

Safety:

The print shop 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. Personal Protective Equipment (ex. i.e. - gloves and goggles) must be used at all times in accordance with the safety demonstrations. Do not use any equipment you have not been checked out on. No food or beverage containers will be allowed in the Art Department facilities when art-making is in progress.

Grading Policy:

The course grade awarded at the end of the term will reflect the students overall attendance and performance both in and out of class. It is your responsibility to consult with the Instructor throughout the term to insure that your progress is satisfactory. Grading will be based on all individual projects, preliminary drawings, ideas, attendance, progress, work ethic and habits. Students will be docked a ½ grade off their project if they do not have their preliminary drawings done on time or have their materials, and are ready to work on work session days. Projects will be graded on creative problem solving, incorporation of assigned techniques, breath of research and experimentation, effort, meeting professional print standards, meeting all deadlines, development of significant content in the work in form of its conceptual understanding, and fulfilling the stated perimeter. Class participation will be factored in and can only lower the final grade. Attendance will be factored in and can affect the grade only by lowering it.

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.
 - 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.
 - 3) Professional demeanor 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
- 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 = Below average quality in work and/or Incompletes on some projects, inadequate class participation
 F = Poor quality of work and/or Incompletes on many projects, poor class participation, several absences.

Incompletes: It is the student's responsibility to complete the course work 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

Assignment Deadlines:

All assigned work must be ready for critiques or grading at the appropriate deadline for each assignment. Any late project will be docked a half letter grade for each day it is late. An absence on a critique day will count as a zero with no chance to redo the assignment. Preliminary drawings likewise must be completed by the stated deadline or your final project grade will be docked 1/2 grade.

Work handed in late or incomplete cannot be redone for a better grade. Completed work handed in on time can be redone as many times as you want to try to improve your grade, with only the highest grade being recorded. This means you cannot hand in the previous assignment for extra credit.

*NOTE: Redoing an assignment does not mean merely modifying an existing assignment based on the professors or classes input on that assignment. It implies absorption of the relevant principles involved and applying that towards a new work. In addition to critique days when the final assignment is due completed, I have also established deadlines for drawings and preparatory work for each assignment. Failure to have your preparatory work done by these deadlines will also affect your grade in a negative manner.

Critiques:

It is extremely important to learn to express your ideas in verbal terms. All of you have reasons for making art, but these need to be clarified and you need to think about how your work fits into the historical and contemporary arena. As artists you will constantly be faced with trying to communicate both visually and verbally with other people. Although it is often difficult to share ideas with a group of people, it is really important, and will only add to your images. Informal and formal critiques will occur throughout the semester. Group critiques will be scheduled to discuss works in progress as well as finished pieces. It is required that all students be present and participate in these groups critiques. All students should have the appropriate work to present and to have put in a appropriate amount of commitment into the work being critiqued. The purpose of these critiques is to openly exchange thoughts and ideas, technical issues and discoveries to further benefit the student. We can all learn from the trials and errors as well as the successes of one another.

Additional works:

It may also be noted that you can always do additional works beyond those that are required. These works must be worked on in class at least some of the time. I will not grade any works that just "show up", that I have not seen worked on during class sessions. Additional works can only help your final grade. However, these additional works are not a substitute for assigned works, and will only be considered if all assigned works have been completed and handed in on time with a passing grade of "C" or higher. The amount of extra credit for additional works will vary based on their complexity and hence may or may not count as the equivalent of a full project.

Studio Maintenance:

Due to the nature of this course, we all must work in a cooperative studio. Since everyone will be using the same space it vitally important that we all work extremely hard at maintaining the equipment, supplies and the cleanliness of the shop. It is not fair for someone else to have to come in and clean up after you, nor should you have to clean up after someone else. If a student leaves a mess once, they will be given a verbal warning, if it happens again, you may be asked to leave the class and possibly pay for damaged equipment. If the class as a whole cannot appropriately maintain the shop, I may have to restrict its access hours.

Studio Access:

Art Department building hours are for currently enrolled students only. Art studio use requires you to be currently registered in a printmaking course, as course fees facilitate specific supplies. If not currently enrolled, students will be asked to leave. Hours are 7:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M. Monday through Sunday.

Access/Special Needs:

If there are any students with disabilities that may have special needs please see the professor after class.

Academic Misconduct:

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 <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Bob Marley Clause:

No images of Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Mickey Mouse or any other trademarked character may be done, unless used in a significant conceptual manner and with the consent of the instructor. In other words I don't want you copying someone else's photograph, cartoon, anime, graphic novel imagery, painting and so on. At this stage you should be going beyond simply copying others peoples work and moving toward the development of your OWN imagery.

AC/DC , Happy Thoughts Clause:

Ok so this one is about the use of text within the book format. Most of your projects will not require you to utilize text, however, the addition of text can add another significant layer to your work. Do's: Writing your own text or significantly re-contextualizing existing text is alright. Don'ts: However, I don't want you to simply use your favorite song lyrics, no matter how awesome they may be, or illustrate your favorite poem or famous quote or "happy thought" quote. ie: "Happiness is a warm puppy" and so on. I am interested in YOUR ideas, not your homage to someone else's.

Spring Break/I Love My Cat/Holiday/Look At Me Clause:

This course is designed to explore the conceptual, structural and aesthetic potential of the book format as a primary means of artistic expression. Therefore, NO scrap books, photo albums, diaries, journals, art portfolios, wedding albums, guest books, children's alphabet books or presents for your family or friends. These are all the types of things you can make on your own, after this class, but they are not the types of projects I want to see during critiques. If you are at all unsure as to whether you are at risk of violating any of these clauses, talk to me BEFORE you start your project.

End of the Semester : Clean up

All student works, materials need to be cleared out of all lockers, studio spaces no later than Noon, the Monday after finals week. Items left after this point will be tossed. Missing the final clean-up will result in having your final project docked 1 full letter grade. This is required. Failure to show up or arriving late for the final clean-up will result in your final project being docked two full letter grades.

Responsibilities:

The art department is not responsible for lost or stolen materials or artworks. Unlocked lockers, paintings stored in bins in the studio, are used at the sole discretion of the student, with no guarantee of safety of materials is made by the department.