Senior Seminar II SA482
Spring Semester 2015
Mon./Wed. 12:30-3:20p
Room: Lecture hall N204

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Office hours: By appointment         Office: S053 By appointment

Prerequisites: Senior students preparing to graduate in the spring semester.

Required Course Status: Required of all graduating Seniors.

Course Description: Senior Seminar is a required, team-taught, multi-purpose course for all Seniors, which connects a student’s undergraduate experience to his/her life beyond the Academy as a graduate student and/or working artist. As such, the course is designed to initiate students in both conceptual and practical aspects of a life in art. The course is not only a guided tour through completing the writing of the Senior Thesis, but also an investigation, discussion and evaluation of what it means to live and work as an artist in the 21st century. In the process, students will explore the concepts, theories, influences, and experiences that inform and support the work they present for review in their senior thesis exhibition. Additionally, the course may cover such topics as: goal setting, how to present oneself to galleries, building a resume, grants, exhibitions, web pages, competitions and other strategies for sustaining a career in the visual arts.

Course Purpose: To guide students to completion of their senior thesis, to prepare their senior thesis exhibition, and for life as an artist beyond art school.

Course Goals:

• To guide the development of the Senior Thesis to completion.
• To address issues of common interest to Senior level students pertaining to the professional practice, investigation and evaluation of art.
• To improve a student’s ability to organize and articulate his/her thoughts on art and art-making, concerning both their own work and the work of others.
• To understand the practice and products of art through research, analysis, synthesis and critical evaluation.
• To explore the web of connections between the activities of using language and making/viewing visual art through the process of translating between written exploration and visual form.
• To develop and articulate, both in verbal and written form, workable career, educational and art-making goals, as well as strategies for implementing and achieving them.

Learner Outcomes: By the end of this course students will have completed their senior thesis and senior exhibition. In addition, students should have an understanding of what it will take to live as an artist in the world beyond art school and how to respond to many of the issues and challenges artists encounter.

Required Texts: All required texts will be provided as handouts.

Required Materials:
A notebook for note-taking. You will also need to have access to photo equipment capable of quality documentation of your work.

Student Requirements:

- Do a self-evaluation: Yes
- Do outside research (papers, reports, projects): Yes
- Gallery talk/Oral Presentation: Yes
- Outside class required workload stated in hrs.: 6
- Participate in class critiques and discussions: Yes
- Do self-directed work: Yes
- Determine own goals: Yes
- Attend all classes on time: Yes
- Turn in all assignments on time: Yes

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance and active participation are required. All information missed as the result of an absence must be obtained from another student.

You are allowed one absence without penalty. Each additional unavoidable absence will lower your final grade by five grade points. If you accumulate 4 absences you will fail the class. Two tardies, leaving any class period early, or being asked to leave the classroom will be recorded as an absence. For the purposes of this class tardiness is defined as being more than five but less than fifteen minutes late for a regularly scheduled class. Any student arriving more than fifteen minutes late for a class will be recorded as absent.

Be alert and aware in class. If your head hits the desk you will be asked to leave and an absence will be recorded.

Grading Opportunities:

Your grade in this class will be calculated in terms of a point system:

- 20pts. Resume
- 20pts. Arts Project Proposal
- 20pts. Gallery Talk
- 20pts. Online portfolio
- 20pts. Class Participation

Grading Standards: Grades will be based on the following:

- Attendance
- Participation/level of student engagement
- Satisfactory completion of assignments
- Quality, depth, and originality of work
- Quantity of work

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Schedule of Classes

**Mondays**

January 12

Introduction of the syllabus, EXPO discussion, thesis schedule.

21

**WEDNESDAY CLASS**

**Artist Packets / Grad School Discussion**

Cover letter, Grants, Residencies,

Assign Resumés / Arts Project Proposal

**Guest Carolyn Gutjar**

26

**Digital Day**

Guest Designer: TBA

Websites, portfolio strategies, online presence, blogs, web links, documenting work in lighting studio, and processing for multiple outputs

Assign Online Portfolio

February 2

Jack Hennan talking about thesis hanging procedures.

Sue and Galen discussing graduation. Exhibition Design / Framing Demo; Framing options / Gallery presentation

**Resume DUE**

9

Visit: 21C – Eli Meiners Discussion on preparator work, art handling, packing, shipping, and storage of work

***Resumés Due – Hard Copy***

18

**WEDNESDAY CLASS**

Finance Day, guest TBA.

Taxes, insurance, and personal finance.

23

**Freelance / Start-Up Day**

Guest Designer: Phil Valois from Alien Workshop / Reptiles + Rainbows.

Discussion about strategy in design, balancing freelance and corporate design work.

Guest Entrepreneurs: 3D Kitbash brings a history of award winning work for large toy companies to a new business that is pioneering 3D printing.

March 2

**Professional Day**

Discussion about Gallery Talks, then:

– Split class in two sections:

FA (Jimmy) – Guests TBA

Design (Casey) – Guests TBA

**Arts Project Proposal DUE**

9

Gallery Talks / **Final Thesis Due**

16

NO CLASS  SPRING BREAK

23

Gallery Talks
Projects / Grading:

1. Resume Project 20pts – Due: February 2nd
You will be required to turn in a hard copy of your final resume for review.

2. Arts Project Proposal 20pts – Due: March 2nd
Please see the provided grant application for information, and use the digital submission link to upload all material.

3. Online Portfolio 20pts – Due: April 20th
You will be required to create a personal website, blogspot, carbonmade, etc. online portfolio that must contain a minimum of these requirements:

   - jpegs of your work organized by your choosing
   - resume
   - contact info
   - bio
   - news on upcoming shows, events, etc.

***Online Portfolio Due, submit URL via Formscentral

Digital submission link will be provided here: http://www.artacademy.edu/calendar/thesis.php

4. Gallery Talk 20pts
You will be required to lead a group in the discussion of your work on display. We will be looking for you to discuss the following: process of the work, art historical/contemporary references to your work, ideation and intentions behind the work, any other relevant notes about what you are trying to accomplish with this presentation.

We will also expect:
- Proper Introduction of you and your show, and a thank you at the end.
- Having a proper conclusion that you open up to questions.
- Minimum of 7:00 minute discussion
- A confident speaking tone that is audible to everyone
- You must move us around spatially, and point out at least a few specific moments in the work to illustrate your discussion points.
- Good diction and coherent structure of ideas.
- **This gallery talk should feel like a professional discussion to strangers. Do not make this a casual talk to your peers.**

**Each thesis group is responsible for deciding the order, and leading the audience through to the next gallery talk.**

### 5. Participation Grade 20pts

You are required to show up to every class on time, and stay for the entire class. This includes all gallery talks.

### Thesis Paper Schedule 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Thesis Advisors return 3rd draft w/ comments to students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>4th draft due to Senior Seminar (digital submission) &amp; Thesis Advisor (hard copy of the paper). This draft must contain a discussion of at least 4 specific works.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Thesis Advisors return 4th draft to students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>5th draft due to Senior Seminar (digital submission) &amp; Thesis Advisor + Readers. This draft should be complete.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Thesis Advisor and Readers return 5th draft to students with comments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Final Thesis due to Seminar (digital &amp; hard copy submission with disc), and Thesis Advisor + Readers (hard copy)</td>
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