

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Artist as Researcher

Semester/Year: Summer 2024

Class Meeting Days and Times: M/T/W/TH/F 9 am – 11:30 am & 12:30 – 4 pm
90 Contact Hours

Program Director:

Tommy Ballard

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AAC Faculty:

Adjunct Faculty Member #1

Adjunct Faculty Member #2

Adjunct Faculty Member #3

Credit Hours: 3

Course Prerequisites: N/A

Required Course Status: N/A

Department: Studio Arts

Course Description:

Artist as Researcher is a transdisciplinary studio arts course that introduces practice-based research techniques and challenges students to utilize research in the creation of a new body of work. Students will critically examine their artistic practice and form a proposal to spend three weeks investigating a specific topic of interest. A taught introduction to aesthetics and conceptual meaning will directly prompt students to find out how their work is made and why it matters to them and the viewer. Students learn advanced artistic techniques through faculty workshops and are encouraged to explore new methods in their projects. Finally, students exhibit their artwork, designs, writings, performances, etc. for a collective exhibition and conduct a presentation to AAC faculty and staff. Students successfully end this course with a new body of work/portfolio, an artist statement, and improved communication and presentation skills.

Course Goals:

1. Create a transdisciplinary and experimental environment that challenges students to question how their artwork, design, or writings exist in a contemporary world.
2. Support and provide resources for independent art research projects that uniquely explore approaches that are selected by students.
3. Introduce aesthetic topics and lead workshop on a variety of artistic techniques.
4. Define artistic and research terminology to guide students through the process of building an artist statement and a project proposal.
5. Facilitate engaging conversations and critiques amongst faculty, students, mentors, and collaborators.

Student Learner Outcomes:

1. Create an independent and creative investigation project that includes researching a topic(s) of interest.
2. Build a body of work that is well developed and successful – meaning the body of work has a conceptual meaning, has great technical quality, and communicates the student’s vision and voice as it pertains to their artistic research and topic.
3. Identify and define research processes for artists, designer, writers, musicians, and performers.
4. Articulate one’s artistic research, both in the content of the work and the practice of making the work.
5. Write an Artist Statement, that is necessary for applying for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and lead a presentation of their work.

Expectations:

1. Students attend all scheduled class time Monday through Friday + an additional 6 hours of studio time minimum during the evenings/weekends.
2. Students attend all required field trips, studio visits, and meetings with mentors.
3. Students are expected to be working during class times.
4. Students are expected to not be on their phones, watching videos, or engaging in other non-productive behaviors during scheduled class time or scheduled course studio time.
5. Students declare a research topic that will guide their conceptual focus for accomplish a three-week long artistic project. Students will conduct research through library visits, online research, and museum/gallery tours. Students are responsible for choosing a topic that will sustain their interest and studio practice.
6. Students will write a brief project proposal outlining:
 - a. Artist Research Topic
 - b. Transdisciplinary Subjects (include at least one / not exhaustive): Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematic, Education, Modern and Foreign Language, Literature, Anthropology, Gender and Women Studies, History, Creative Industry, etc.
 - c. How will you research your topic?
 - d. How will your research topic inspire your studio practice?
 - e. Outline of your proposed body of work. (example: projection installation with text, series of paintings, poetry chapbook, performance art happenings, etc.)
7. Students will work in their studio to conduct practice-based research and use their findings as inspiration for a well-developed body of artwork.
8. Students will meet individually with faculty members and be prepared for those meetings.
9. Students will exhibit their work for review and participate in group discussions and critiques.
10. Students will respectively tour art museums, galleries, libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions to find inspiration through experiential learning.