

**166 Topics in Studio Art and 366 Advanced Topics in Studio Art  
(Collaborative Projects Spring 2003)  
(We are here together Monday and Wednesday from 1-4 pm.)  
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Students will work with other students and artists from community in all aspects of the collaborative processes: from conception of ideas to the execution and design of projects. This course will explore a variety of media including drawing, painting, sculpture and installation. Class discussion, lectures, as well as readings will supplement the studio work.

Students are encouraged to bridge different disciplines. Students will be asked to bring outside interests to class as well as work with students who have training and interest in other areas including music, theater, poetry, etc.

Collaborative projects allow students to investigate new models of studio practice. By creating a situation where less experienced artists work side by side with more experienced artists there is a more immediate and direct learning environment for students and instructors alike.

The collaborative topics course will better prepare the students for their lives as artists in an increasingly cross-disciplinary environment. Artists are often required to work side by side with designers, architects and others in the development of public projects. The class would also better prepare our students to meet the growing demand of the educational goals of public works. Many cities are initiating "Artists in the Schools" programs, where artists are brought into schools to work with the students on projects.

The course work will culminate in an exhibition created specifically for Clough-Hanson Gallery. This end goal will provide the invaluable opportunity for site specific constructions and will provide an opportunity to preparing their work for gallery installation.

## **REQUIREMENTS TO PASS THIS CLASS:**

Studio art classes at Rhodes require a minimum of 138 work hours for every three hours of credit. You will fail if you do not have these minimum hours of work. In order to achieve this you must average nine hours of work each week. Six hours will be spent in class; however, you must schedule to spend the three additional hours on homework and outside projects. See project lists below.

**Attendance and Class Participation:** Class attendance and class participation is mandatory.

--Do not be absent. You will not be able to re-create the learning atmosphere of the collaborative classroom on your own.

**--After three absences your final class grade will be lowered one grade with each additional absence.**

--Team sports absence: If you play team sports and have to go out of town, be prepared to make up the hours outside of class. You are responsible for documenting your make-up work.

**--Punctuality: Please be punctual. It has to do with respect, not only for the instructor and your classmates but also visitors that will be working with the class on projects. If you're more than five minutes late three times it counts as an absence.**

--Illness: Please contact me immediately if you have a serious health problem or a family emergency. If you tell me about problems on the last day of class there's not much I can do to help you.

--Class participation includes participating in critiques, class work, and clean-up. In addition each student will be assigned a duty to perform every class. Your grade will be withheld if you fail to clean out your cubby and take your work and supplies home. See deadlines below.

### **Grades:**

40%= Engagement, completion and participation of all in class work and activities. Failure to attend class will pull your grade down dramatically.

40%= Outside collaborations (Homework and final project), sketchbook, and attending community events (openings, lectures, gallery shows, etc.)

20%= Willingness to take risks/effort to improve/grow (the difference between an **A** student and a **C** student).

--Improvement is defined as significant and sustained skill acquisition.

--Risk taking students take their projects beyond personal satisfaction ("I like it"). They tend to work larger, more, with ambitious media and sustain projects for a long period of time. They make significant changes to their work all through their process.

--You are required to attend four outside art community events. The events include but are not limited to art opening receptions, gallery shows, lectures, and workshops. You'll need to confirm your attendance in your sketchbook.

**A= Excellent**

An **A** student fulfills all requirements for the class. They come prepared. An **A** student makes great improvements because he or she cares about art. The student shows that art and this class are a priority in their life. At the end they can say "I did the best I could possibly do in that class."

**B=Good**

A **B** student also fulfills all the requirements for the class but somehow lacks the spark or the determination to make great improvements in the class. Art may or may not be their major and for whatever reason art or this class isn't a priority for them. They can say they did well but could have done better.

**C=Average**

A **C** student is a student that comes to class most of the time, does the homework most of the time but their level of engagement was average. This class isn't a priority to them and their grade will reflect it.

**Supply List for Collaborative projects:**

It's simple: The more you have the more you can use.

For drawing projects students should bring a variety of papers. Depending on the situation any paper ranging from quality paper to found papers can be used in the class.

Most marking materials should be immediate: markers, pens, pencils, watercolors, inks, and acrylic paints tend to work best when working collaboratively. Have brushes, a container for water, scissors, mat knives, glue, tape, and collage materials.

Part of your final grade will be determined by how prepared you are when you come to class.

**Parts of the class:**

The Library (thank you David): An area of the classroom will be dedicated to the idea of a community library where the instructor as well as students will put aside books/images for reading/seeing. It is the responsibility of the student to make time in or out of class to do these readings. I have to read these and I wouldn't ask you to read something that I don't want to read myself.

**Outside projects:**

Students will be encouraged to seek out artists outside the class to collaborate with. Suggestions/hints: Poets, fiction writers, actors, quilters, and other artists.

**Sketchbook:** Students will be asked to keep a sketchbook. If you already keep one, great! You can use the same sketchbook for other classes if you need to. The sketchbook can function as a place to simply gather your thoughts, to provide a space where you can draw, where you can hold things that interest

you, and a place for you to actively remember. You will be provided with an assortment of examples.

**Collaborative Projects in class:**

The majority of the projects will relate to the theme of this semester's class: *Our History*.

**First segment (feet wet): Using partner's eyes** (an exercise in communication): One artist will draw what the other artist describes seeing in a photograph. Each works without seeing what the other is looking at. Drawings should eventually match the photograph. In the first segment we will also make **Exquisite Corpse Drawings**. These are made in the tradition of early surrealist or dada artists drawing projects, where one artist begins a drawing of a body (a head or torso) and another artist works on the next part of the body (waist, legs or feet).

Other smaller projects will include mapping, watching movies, event interpretation, newspaper stories, etc.

**Final Projects** will include large scale collaborations to be mounted for the exhibition in Clough-Hanson Gallery. The dates for the show are April 11th through the 16th (a short run).

Final outside project: Each student will need to choose an individual outside of the Collaborative Projects Class with which to collaborate. Examples of student projects from the past:

Lewis Feibelman had an old family friend who is a poet and through the mail they collaborated on poems and drawings that Lewis later put into a handmade book. Jena Balton mailed drawings out to over thirty people who she knew from all over the world, those people were then invited to add to or alter the drawing in some way and then send it back to her. She then presented the projects to the class as a mini-show.

This project should be executed with the same amount of time, care, and attention as a final paper for one of your regular "academic" classes.

**Important dates to remember:**

**Jan. 20th is MLK Jr. Day, no classes.**

**Individual mid-term critiques will take place during class time on Wednesday, March 5th.**

**Spring break is March 7 through the 16th**

**Easter break is April 17 through the 20th**

**Last day of class is May 2nd.**

**Final critique for the class (where we will all be there to discuss the semester's work) will happen during regular exam period.**