

Rhodes College, Art Department  
Art 486-01, Senior Thesis  
Spring 2006, Clough 312, M 6-8:30pm  
Professor: Erin Harmon  
Email: [harmone@rhodes.edu](mailto:harmone@rhodes.edu)  
Campus phone: 843-3826  
Office hours: M/W 5-6pm or by appointment

## SENIOR THESIS

### TEXT:

The Practical Handbook for the Emerging Artist, (second edition) Margaret R. Lazzari, Harcourt College Publishers, 2002

### SEMINAR OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this seminar is to provide graduating studio art majors the opportunity to pursue individually designed creative projects AND research, undertaken with the approval and guidance of the art faculty. The production component to this course is self – regulated. Expect to spend 10 hours minimum per week for 14 weeks on research and production. These projects will result in the development of a body of work that focuses on depth and commitment to precise conceptual exploration, culminating in an exhibition to be held **Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> through May 2006. Work is due to the gallery no later than 12 noon, Tuesday April 18.**

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

#### Weekly Critiques:

Your active, professional and committed participation during weekly critiques with faculty and peer group is expected. This means in addition to having work installed and ready to critique weekly, you participate in group discussions consistently and generously. You must demonstrate professionalism by fostering an active interest in your colleagues' work - accept and offer constructive criticism throughout the semester.

#### Senior Seminar Notebook:

At this point in your career you should be proficient at keeping a prolific sketchbook. This will contain crit notes, drafts of statements and proposals, research and reference material and your artist lecture outline and plans.

#### Proposals & Artist Statements:

Format a proposal that clearly states the problems you wish to explore. This should include a weekly work schedule. Submit all proposals, drafts and statements typed and double spaced. On days when proposals are due, bring enough copies to distribute to the class.

#### Portfolios:

This semester, all seminar participants will be required to document their work with either slides or digital images and compile a finished portfolio. This portfolio will include the final Thesis Exhibition. In addition, you will send a copy of this portfolio in application of the event/cause of your choice *i.e.*: job, school, grant, gallery or competition. It is your responsibility to research all elements of the application and get them finished on time. You will provide me an identical copy of this application. **All portfolios & application copies are due to me no later than Monday, April 24th.**

#### Artist Lectures:

Each of you will give a 10minute artist lecture with visuals (\*slides or Powerpoint) outlining major influences, progression and chronology. These lectures will be delivered to the class **Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>.**

### Department Functions:

You are required to attend art department lectures & openings and encouraged to frequent off campus events.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS:** For a portion of the semester we will meet only once a week unless otherwise determined by faculty. This means that good attendance and punctuality is an absolute for the successful completion of this course. You will be granted **two** unexcused absence. On the occasion of your **third** unexcused absence, you can expect your letter grade to drop one full point. An expected A- will become a B-. Every unexcused absence after the third will lower your grade an additional letter. Five or more absences will result in failure. **IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO SHOW AND DISCUSS WORK IN CLASS ON MEETING DAYS, YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE WILL BE AFFECTED.** (Should you confront personal problems or illness it is your responsibility to seek me out to discuss the situation.) It is your responsibility to provide doctor's notes etc., or your absence will be otherwise considered unexcused.

### **STUDIO:**

Please consider this a co-operative space in which you are all part owner. The studios are open to you anytime classes are not in session. Check department class schedules to be clear about these times. In order to use the studios during class time, you must obtain faculty permission first. Unfortunately, we cannot provide storage space other than one painting rack so please keep in mind the physical limitations of your own spaces when planning work. It is very important that you keep the studio clean and clutter free for a safe & comfortable work environment. You are each responsible for cleaning up after yourselves every time you leave the studio. **DO NOT LEAVE WORK OR MATERIALS OUT. FOLD AND PUT AWAY EASELS AFTER USE. IF CLEANING UP BECOMES AN ISSUE, YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE WILL BE EFFECTED.**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Essential course objectives:

- Developing creative capacities (inventing, designing, performing in art)
- Learning to apply course material by improving problem solving, thinking and technique
- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.

### **ASSESSMENT & GRADING:**

You will be graded on a combination of the following:

**PRODUCTION:** Consistent and rigorous production is an absolute requirement to completing the course. You are expected to present a new piece or conceptual development each week.

**TIME:** Studio art classes at Rhodes require a minimum of 138 work hours for three hours of credit. To achieve this you must average 10 hours per week for 14 weeks. Most students spend more than this minimum. If you fail to invest this time you will fail the course.

**DEVELOPMENT & COMPLETION:** By the end of term you must complete the work you set out to as proposed. You are expected to grow, change and develop in facility as well as intellectual depth and breadth during the process. Indication of progress will include incorporating critique suggestion in revising work.

## CLASS CALENDER\*

*I reserve the right to revise, change or add-to this list in anyway appropriate throughout the course of the semester*

**Monday, January 11:**

**Wednesday, January 13:** *to be determined*

**Monday, January 16:** MARTIN LUTHER KING OBSERVANCE-NO CLASS

**Wednesday, January 18:**

Initial Proposals due

**Monday, January 23: CRIT**

**Wednesday, January 25:** *to be determined*

**Monday, January 30: CRIT**

Proposals Final Draft due

**HW:** Read: (chapter 5), pg 75 & 80-81

Choose four artists whose work connects to yours either visually or conceptually. You interpret this “connection”. Research how the work of these artists is discussed. Look at artists’ statements, reviews of work, critical texts, theory etc...Pluck out key sentences that relate to you directly and key sentences that you would have to change to relate to your work. Find five of each category for each artist.

Next, write five sentences of your own that cover things left unaddressed. What is the material doing? How do you fit in with others working in this genre? How do you not? What are you trying to convey? What is your process? Who is your audience?

Bring copies of all, for all and be prepared to discuss.

**Wednesday, February 1:** *to be determined*

**Monday, February 6: CRIT**

**HW:** Translate proposal and critique notes, and sentences into a clear and concise artist statement that will be read at the midterm critique. Bring copies for all.

**Wednesday, February 8:** *to be determined*

**Monday, February 13: CRIT**

**HW:** Based on our feedback, revise statements. Bring copies for all.

Begin documenting work. Refer to chapter 5 & handouts

Begin research on applications. Refer to chapters 7, 13, 14, 16, 17 & appendix.

**Wednesday, February 15:** *to be determined*

**Monday, February 20: CRIT**

Artist Statement discussion

**Wednesday, February 22:** *to be determined*

**Monday, February 27: CRIT**

**HW:** Begin work on artist lecture. Collect images from books, internet, etc., to illustrate your points.

**Wednesday, March 1:** ***MIDTERM CRITIQUE***

**Thursday, March 2: ERIN'S ARTIST LECTURE, Blount Auditorium, 7pm**

**Friday, March 3: "Pettest of Pets" OPENING RECEPTION, Clough Hanson Gallery, 6-8pm**

**Monday, March 6:** ***WORK NIGHT – NO CLASS***

**Wednesday, March 8: CRIT**

**Monday, March 13:** ***SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS***

**Wednesday, March 15:** ***SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS***

**Monday, March 20: CRIT**

**HW:** Begin outlines for artist lectures

**Wednesday, March 22:** *to be determined*

**Monday, March 27: CRIT**

**HW:** Finish outlines for artist lectures. Bring copies for all to next class.

**Wednesday, March 29:** *to be determined*

**Monday, April 3: CRIT & OUTLINE DISCUSSIONS**

**Wednesday, April 5:** *to be determined*

**Monday, April 10: CRIT**

**Wednesday, April 12:** *to be determined*

**Monday, April 17: CRIT**

**Tuesday, April 18:**

***THESIS WORK DUE TO GALLERY NO LATER THAN 12PM!!***

**Wednesday, April 19:** *to be determined*

**Monday, April 24: ARTIST LECTURES**  
**PORTFOLIOS & APPLICATIONS DUE**

**Wednesday, April 26: FINAL THESIS SHOW CRITIQUE (WITH ART DEPARTMENT**  
**FACULTY AND OUTSIDE JURORS)**