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ART 482-01, Junior and Senior Seminar, Fall 2001

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Junior and Senior Seminar, Fall 2001, Thursday 4:15- 6:00

Junior and Senior seminar serves art majors in the studio and architecture tracks with the opportunity to pursue individually designed creative projects, or research, undertaken with the approval and guidance of the art faculty.

Junior and Senior Seminar requirements include: project proposal, seminar notebook with critique notes and drafts of artist statements, a development of a body of work that focuses on depth and commitment to precise conceptual exploration and the active participation in weekly critiques with art faculty and peer group. Twice during the semester the student will orally present his/her work in a formal critique to all art faculty. Students must spend no less than 10 hours a week for 14 weeks on research and production. Most students spend more than this minimum.

REQUIREMENTS TO PASS THIS CLASS: Evaluation through commitment and production

Commitment:

Time: Studio art classes at Rhodes require a minimum of 138 work hours for three hours of credit. To achieve this you must average at least 10 hours of work for 14 weeks. This is a self-regulated condition. If you fail to spend the time, you will get an F for the course. Your weekly work schedule will be a part of your project proposal.

Attendance: You are required to attend all the critiques. Please do not schedule any other commitments during this time. You are required to attend art department lectures and openings. Your grade will reflect absenteeism.

Professional and committed participation in critiques: You must be prepared to accept and give constructive criticism during the semester. You must foster an active interest in your colleagues' work. All discussions will be professional in nature.

Critique facilitator: At the end of the semester each student will be asked to design and direct the critical inquiry. The facilitator is responsible for the content, timing and procedure of the critique. The facilitator can redirect an inquiry that strays too far from the original intent.

Production:

Project Proposal (including weekly work schedule): Students will write a proposal clearly stating the problems they wish to explore. The initial proposal is due August 30. Final proposals are due Sept 6. Art faculty must approve all proposals. Your proposal is your contract. All proposals will be posted and made available to your peers.

Junior Senior Seminar Notebook: You must have a well-organized project notebook for Senior Seminar. Bring it to all critiques. This notebook should be a 3 ring binder, and include:

1. Personal Narrative
2. Project proposal.
3. Work schedule.
4. Artist's statements
5. Research and professional examples of other artist's statements.
6. All transcripts from in class critiques. (Please read and retype these transcripts every week).
7. Outline notes and three questions formulated from required readings.
8. Art survival guide. includes all handouts (critiques structures, art world topics, taxes, studio, slides).

This book will be turned in for review and suggestions at various times during the semester. You must bring this book to every class.

9. Letters of Recommendations
10. A slide sheet

Consistent and rigorous production:

Every student must bring a new piece or development to every critique, every week.

Completion and development of all work: At the end of the term, you must complete the work you set out to accomplish. The student should grow, change and develop in facility and in intellectual breadth and depth during the process. Indication of progress must include incorporating critique suggestion in revising work.

Required reading: Please outline and develop three questions about the texts:

Art and Fear by Bayles and Orland (on reserve)

Advice to Young Artist in a Post Modern Era (on reserve)

Finding the Muse by Freeman (on reserve)

All handouts.

Syllabus:

Aug 23: Introduction, Personal Narrative Assigned. Narrative due Aug 30.

Aug 30: Bring in narratives, please bring copies for everyone in the class. Make your copies before class!

Homework: Initial proposal and weekly work schedule, Art work, Senior Seminar notebook and reading *Art and Fear* (on reserve) and *Advice to Young...* Chapter 1-6 assigned.

The Initial proposal will be read out loud with artwork. Bring copies for everyone. A fellow student will record critique suggestions so the artist can develop a final proposal for next class.

Sept. 6: First critique. Proposal due. For the first critique, and all subsequent critiques, bring one object for critique and your notebook.

Turn in Notebooks. Final proposal due. Bring copies. Outline for *Art and Fear* and *Advice to Young...* Chapters 1-6 due.

Research Assignment: Research and bring back for the class two artist's statements--one you admire and one you despise. Bring copies for everyone.

Sept. 13: Second critique. Discuss artist's statements.

Sept. 23: Third critique.

Sept. 20: Fourth critique. Translate proposal and critique notes into an artist's statement due Sept 27

Sept. 27: Fifth critique, Turn in Notebook, Artist's statement due (and copies). This will be the statement you read at your mid-term critique. It should be short and perfect.

Oct. 4: Sixth critique, revisions

Oct. 11: mid-semester critique. All art department invited. The order and critique spaces will be assigned (possible spaces: Clough 312, 319, 206, and with advanced notice in the Orgill meeting room). Assignment reading *Advice to young...* Chapter 7-11

Oct. 18: Discuss Midterm Critique. Seventh critique

Oct. 25: Eighth critique: If needed, private critiques with studio art faculty and individual student.

Nov. 1: Ninth critique, Notebooks due, revised artist statement due

Nov. 8: Tenth critique.

Nov. 15: Eleven critique. Assigned reading: *Finding the Muse*

Thanksgiving break

Nov. 29: Final critique, All art department invited. The order and critique spaces will be assigned (possible spaces: Clough 312, 319, 206).

Turn in well-organized notebook, all outlines of assigned readings must be complete.

Studio Space: Studio space and equipment is available only for those students currently enrolled in a particular studio course.

Though we encourage you to work in the size you feel is necessary to achieve your goals, please keep in mind the physical limitations of our studio space and storage space. All professional artists must work within limitations with regard to budget, time, space, storage and facilities.

Also, please keep in mind, each studio accommodates 30 or more students per semester. Respect your classmates: keep the studio clean and allow storage space for your peers.

Storage:

There will be storage space made available to you for your current work. For example: In the painting studio, intermediate, advanced and senior painters may use the painting racks for storage. In the drawing studio, photographs and drawings may be stored in the flat files. You must label each storage area with your name and date. Normally, if your 2-dimensional piece is larger than 4' by 4', you must make other arrangements for storage.

Check with other studio professors for limits on 3-dimensional pieces. If you have some very specific problems or concerns about this, please ask Professor Hoffman.

Cleanliness:

Please clean up after yourselves. Store work in a clean and orderly way. Your grade will be lowered for repeated infractions.

Junior and Senior Seminar Studio Use:

You may use the studios when there are no other classes in session. If you must use studio space during a class period (an emergency), you must ask the professor in advance for permission.

Deadline: Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1pm

If you do not collect your work after you have completed the course and have not been requested by the department to leave your work, then, due to space limitations, your work will be discarded. The department cannot be responsible for storing work of students in past courses.

Writing your proposal for Senior seminar

The proposal for your senior seminar project should be a summary of your preparatory steps. You should determine a general topic for investigation, read and look at current art journals and monographs on your topic, explore the resources available for the project, consider the concepts and theories you might want to address, and work out the studio materials and techniques you intend to use. At each stage in this process, you should consult with the studio faculty (art history and other faculty members can be of great importance) so that you both clearly understand the direction in which you are heading.

The Proposal itself serves several purposes. First, it communicates your intentions to the Studio Faculty and Senior Seminar Class. Second, it serves as a plan of action, outlining the steps you will be following, the problems you expect to confront, and some sort of prediction as to what you hope to accomplish. And third, the approved proposal becomes an understanding between student and Studio Faculty and Senior Seminar Class, and serves as one of the bases on which the senior seminar project will be judged. Any major revisions in the proposed work require notification to, and approval by, the Studio Faculty and Senior Seminar Class.

Parts of the Proposal

- 1.) You should begin with a short introduction that establishes the area that defines the specific interest, and conveys any information necessary to an understanding of the material that follows. The most common error here is a failure to get to the point.
- 2.) Clearly state the concerns to which your creative project will be directed. Then provide a rationale or explanation of your interest.
- 3.) If possible, state what you want to accomplish. This paragraph should indicate the scope, format, and benefit of the project to you and your art.
- 4.) Discuss the background of the project. While you should not allow a historical summary to overshadow the importance of the proposed study, you do need to demonstrate that you are aware of the current state the field. Briefly explain what is already known and how your study will supplement or advance that knowledge.
- 5.) Describe the materials, techniques, working methods, and critical and theoretical methodologies you intend to use. Don't just state that you intend to read "several works" on an art movement; name them.
- 6.) Discuss any limitations you might perceive. Admitting such problems does not automatically invalidate your project; sometimes it reassures the reader that you have fully considered the problems and are prepared to work around them.

7.) The body of the proposal should not exceed 2 pages (times 12, double spaced), and one page bibliography (include any sources you intend to use.)

8.) Three hours of credit requires at least 10 hours of work per week. The student should submit a time schedule on a separate sheet of paper. This time schedule is a weekly schedule of times that you have set aside to work on your senior seminar project. Remember fresh work is required each week, so schedule your week appropriately.

Avoiding Common Pitfalls at the Proposal Stage

1.) Stick to the topic and resist the temptation to sound "properly positive and enthusiastic." Ask yourself if the reader really needs to consider each point in order to judge the adequacy of the proposal. If not, leave it out.

2.) Don't weight the proposal down with extensive irrelevant material. Concentrate on what you intend to do.

3.) Choose words that are as clear and precise as possible.

4.) Read and re-read the proposal for grammatical and mechanical errors.

Proposals may be approved or returned for revisions and resubmission. Studio Faculty will offer specific comments and may ask questions concerning the scope of the project, methodology, and other issues. Students are encouraged to meet individually with Studio Faculty, in response to their comments, to work on the areas of the proposal that may need improvement or clarification.

Extra Tips

1.) Consult with as many other people in your discipline (and outsiders as well) to insure that you consider different points of view.

2.) The questions and ideas to be explored should be explicitly stated in your proposal. Vagueness should be avoided, including unnecessary use of jargon.

3.) Create a realistic weekly time schedule and stick with it. This will ensure that you have time to complete all that you want to, without coming to the end with little time and much work still to be done. It is important not to feel rushed in order to insure your best effort.

4.) This proposal will inform your artist's statement (and perhaps your M.F.A. application or a grant proposal). Reading other artist's statements will help you get a feel for how these statements are written.

5.) Try to finish your proposal early. Put the proposal away for a while before proofreading it for submission. Read your paper aloud; if it sounds awkward or poorly written, it probably is. Also, have a friend or two proof your paper for clarity and errors of spelling and grammar. You will be reading it out loud to the Senior Seminar class.