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ART 486-01, Senior Thesis, Spring 2009

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Rhodes College, Art Department
Art 486-01, Senior Thesis
Spring 2009, Clough 312, W 6-8:30pm
Professor: Erin Harmon
Email: harmone@rhodes.edu
Campus phone: 843-3826
Office hours: M/W 4:30-6pm and 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 at least 10 hours 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 **Work must be done and installation in the gallery complete by 8:00AM, Friday, April 17 (NO EXCEPTIONS) The show will run Friday, April 17th through April 24th 2008. There will be a closing reception for family and friends after graduation, Saturday, May 16th.**

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

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.

You will also have several opportunities over the course of the semester to have individual critiques with guest and visiting artists. This is a special privilege that I expect you to take advantage of. Come on time and prepared to these opportunities with finished work and a copy of your most recent artist statement.

Midterm Critique will be **Wednesday, March 4th from 6-8pm**. You will be expected to show well presented, finished work to Art Department Faculty, Thesis colleagues, majors & friends. This will be your last public critique as a Rhodes Art Major so make it count. Bring a copy of your artist statement to be read before your work is discussed.

Final Critique will be **Monday, April 20th from 6-8pm** in the gallery and will include Art Department Faculty & outside jurors. Bring a copy of your artist statement to be read before your work is discussed.

Proposals & Artist Statements:

The proposal itself serves several purposes: first, it communicates your intentions to the studio faculty and 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 your outcomes might be. Finally, the approved proposal becomes a contract between the artist, the faculty and the seminar class and serves as one of the basis for which the senior thesis will be judged. (This should include a weekly work schedule.) Format a proposal that clearly states the problems you wish to explore. Your Artist Statement will become a document that is used to present your work both at midterm and final critique as well as printed in the exhibition materials. Submit all proposals, drafts and statements typed and double spaced. On days when proposals and or statements are due, bring enough copies to distribute to the class.

Applications:

You will research and apply to @least three different opportunities including jobs, schools, grants, galleries or competition. You will submit to me a typed list of the opportunities you applied to including: name & contact

information, deadline, and a list of images sent for each one. This will be turned into me **Wednesday, April 29th.**

Portfolios

You will be required to submit a Digital Portfolio including 20 (Hi Res@ least 250 dpi @4" on the longest side) JPEG images and no more than 5 details. Include work in the final Thesis Exhibition. The portfolio should consist of these 20 JPEGs and a slide list with materials, date, dimensions and title of each piece. Label each image with your last name and a number corresponding to the included slide list (ex: harmon_1 or harmon_2detail.) Burn portfolio to disk and bring to class no later than **Wednesday, April 29th.**

Art Events:

This semester you are expected to attend at least 3 art department functions including lectures & openings and at least 2 off campus events over the course of the semester. In a one page essay, give the event, date, location and any other important identifying information. Describe your impressions of each event. This essay (pass/fail) will be submitted to me at the end of the semester. Due **Wednesday, April 29th.**

Artist Lectures :Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Symposium

A final component to your work for the semester will be a presentation at Rhodes' Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Symposium, **Friday, May 1st.** You will each prepare and deliver an artist lecture on the development and progression of your work. Your lecture will include images of your work as well as illustrations of outside influences to best explain the chronological progression of the formal and conceptual issues you have examined over the course of the semester. We will dry run these lectures **Monday, April 27 & Wednesday, April 29.**

**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. This notebook should be with you during class at all times. Although the completed notebook will not be graded, you should be prepared to reference notes, studies, research with me during critiques, discussions and lectures.

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.**

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. I will be looking for quality of craftsmanship, mastery of material and intention in installation and presentation.

PARTICIPATION: Consistently thoughtful and generous attention is expected from you both in your works ethic as well as your demeanor during class and critiques.

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

Wednesday, January 14:

Syllabus, Bubble Diagrams & Adjective Lists

HW: Thesis Proposals

Monday, January 19: *NO CLASS...MARTIN LUTHER KING OBSERVANCE*

HW: Thesis Proposals

Wednesday, January 21: Weekly CRIT

Bring copies of Bubble Diagrams & Adjective Lists for group

HW: Thesis Proposals

Thursday, January 22: 7pm JOHN TALLMAN ARTIST LECTURE; 7PM; BLOUNT

**Friday, January 23: 10-12:00pm INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUES WITH JOHN TALLMAN
12:00pm LUNCH WITH THE ARTIST
6-8:00pm JOHN TALLMAN EXHIBITION RECEPTION**

Monday, January 26: _____ *to be determined*

Wednesday, January 28: Weekly CRIT

Initial Proposals due – email electronic version to Erin. Bring copies for group and be prepared to read aloud.

HW: Revise initial proposals

Monday, February 2: _____ *to be determined*

Wednesday, February 4: Weekly CRIT

Proposals Final Draft due

HW: Initial Artist Statements

Read: (chapter 5), pg 75 & 80-81, use proposal, crit notes, and diagrams to create a clear, concise statement. Email electronic version to Erin. Bring copies for group and be prepared to read aloud.

Monday, February 9: _____ *to be determined*

Wednesday, February 11: Weekly CRIT

Initial Artist Statements due- Email electronic version to Erin. Bring copies for group and be prepared to read aloud.

HW: Revise Initial Artist Statements

Begin documenting work. Refer to chapter 5 & handouts

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

Thursday, February 12: 7pm CHICAGO CURATOR/CRITIC/ARTIST MICHELLE GRABNER LECTURE; BLOUNT

Saturday, February 14: 1-3:00 ART CRITICISM SYMPOSIUM WITH MICHELLE GRABNER & DAVID MCCARTHY; 051 BARRETT LIBRARY

Monday, February 16: _____ *to be determined*

Wednesday, February 18: Weekly CRIT

Monday, February 23: _____ *to be determined*

Wednesday, February 25: ERIN GONE – COLLEGE ARTS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Thursday, February 26: 7pm DEMETRIUS OLIVER ARTIST LECTURE; BLOUNT

**Friday, February 27: 10-12:00pm INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUES WITH DEMETRIUS OLIVER
12:00pm LUNCH WITH THE ARTIST
6-8:00pm DEMETRIUS OLIVER EXHIBITION RECEPTION**

Monday, March 2: Artist Statements due Email electronic version to Erin & bring hardcopy to meeting
INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH ERIN to discuss midterm & URCAS Abstracts

Wednesday, March 4: MIDTERM CRIT

**Thursday, March 5: 7pm BALTIMORE ARTIST CHRISTINE BUCKTON ARTIST LECTURE
(in conjunction with her exhibition at Material) ; BLOUNT
www.christinebucktonillman.com**

**Friday, March 6: 10-12:00pm INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUES WITH CHRISTINE BUCKTON
12:00pm LUNCH WITH THE ARTIST**

Monday, March 9: _____ *to be determined*

Wednesday, March 11: Weekly CRIT

HAMLETT NEEDS TITLE OF EXHIBITION AND CORRECT SPELLING OF NAMES AS THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN PRESS MATERIAL FOR THE SHOW – EMAIL LIST IN AM

Monday, March 16: *NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK!!*

Wednesday, March 18: *NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK!!*

Monday, March 23: _____ *to be determined*

Wednesday, March 25: Weekly CRIT

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS FOR URCAS

Friday, March 27: HAMLETT NEEDS COVER IMAGE AS WELL AS ONE HI-RES (APROX 355DPI AND 4”X? PRINT SIZE) FROM EACH STUDENT including TITLE, MATERIALS AND A 100 WORD ARTIST STATEMENT AS IT WILL APPPEAR IN EXHIBITION MATERIALS

**Monday, March 30: *to be determined*
DROP OFF FOR JURIED STUDENT EXHIBITION**

Tuesday, March 31: DROP OFF FOR JURIED STUDENT EXHIBITION

Wednesday, April 1: Weekly CRIT

Friday, April 3: 7pm RECEPTION FOR JURIED STUDENT EXHIBITION

**Monday, April 6: *to be determined*
HAMLETT NEEDS ONE HI-RES (APROX 250DPI AND 4”X? PRINT SIZE) TO BE USED FOR PRESS MATERIALS AND WEBSITE. SET GROUP APPOINTMENT WITH HAMLETT TO DISCUSS INSTALLATION ISSUES AND WORK PLACEMENT.**

Wednesday, April 8: Weekly CRIT

Monday, April 13: GALLERY OPEN FOR INSTALLATION – 12:00PM MAKE INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH HAMLETT FOR INSTALLATION

**Wednesday, April 15: : INSTALLATION
INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH ERIN IN THE GALLERY**

**Friday, April 17: 8:00am INSTALLTION MUST BE COMPLETE
4:30-8PM SENIOR THESIS OPENING RECEPTION**

**Monday, April 20: FINAL THESIS SHOW CRITIQUE
(WITH ART DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND OUTSIDE JURRORS)**

Wednesday, April 22: *to be determined*

Monday, April 27: Artist Lectures 1-4 & feedback

**Wednesday, April 29: Artist Lectures 4-8 & feedback
PORTFOLIOS, APPLICATION LISTS & ARTS EVENTS ESSAYS DUE**

Friday, May 1: RHODES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY SYMPOSIUM

STUDIO MUST BE CLEANED & CLEARED BY MONDAY, MAY 4TH 10:00AM