

Graduate Seminar

Wednesday 6-8:50pm

Location: JOUR 110

Hours: 3

<http://gradsemfall2012.blogspot.com/>

Professor Vaughn Wascovich

office: J223

h/ tues. 2-5, by appointment

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“The purpose of art is not a rarified, intellectual distillate-  
it is life, intensified brilliant life.”

Alain Arias-Misson

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters,  
compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Description:

It is my intention that this class be different than a typical lecture class, and that, in fact, it truly be a “seminar.” This definition is from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seminar>:

Seminar is, generally, a form of academic instruction, either at an academic institution or offered by a commercial or professional organization. It has the function of bringing together small groups for recurring

meetings, focusing each time on some particular subject, **in which everyone present is requested to actively participate**. This is often accomplished through an ongoing Socratic dialogue[1] with a seminar leader or instructor, or through a more formal presentation of research. Normally, participants must not be beginners in the field under discussion... The idea behind the seminar system is to familiarize students more extensively with the methodology of their chosen subject and also to allow them to interact with examples of the practical problems that always occur during research work. It is essentially a place where assigned readings are discussed, questions can be raised and debates can be conducted.[2] It is relatively informal, at least compared to the lecture system of academic instruction.

What's Expected of You, Generally:

Energy and enthusiasm in this class are vitally important, as is attendance. Please be prepared to share your experiences and ideas. Influences for discussion can come from anywhere: music, nature, writing, philosophy, personal experiences, etc.

Class discussion and peer review are very important for everyone as artists, and this class should function in such a way for you to get the most from your classmates. This should be a fun and rewarding learning experience for all of us, please work and participate actively and steadily.

You will also be utilizing a journal/blog as a means to clear your mind and gather your thoughts. Please plan on sharing this with the class.

Please come to class with a positive attitude and respect for your peers and instructor!

Requirements, Specifically:

Each student will provide a blog and website of all their work for this class. We will also prepare and publish a book of the classwork with each person being represented. Students will participate in class discussions, field trips and visiting lectures. If you are unable to attend a field trip, it is expected that you will attend the venue at some other time and prepare a written summary for your blog.

This course will be geared toward your specific goals and needs. I will meet with each of you individually during the first two weeks of class to discuss the direction you intend to pursue with your education. In addition to the class assignments, you will each make specific goals to attain this semester. Your final grade will be based partly on if you achieved those goals.

Grades:

Grades are based on weekly assignments and their quality, an extended project of your choice presented as a solo exhibition at final critique, and class participation.

You will be graded on participation, attendance, and presentation every week. (65% of grade.)

You will develop a final portfolio based on your weekly projects, to be turned in the final week of class (35% of grade.)

Please make an appointment to see me during the fifth and tenth week of the semester, so that we can individually review your grades and your progress in the class.

#### Attendance:

All students are required to regularly attend class. Art is a practice-based discipline and the learning process requires active participation. Students will receive a failing grade upon their fourth absence. Being tardy for class equals  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an absence. Being unprepared for class by not having an assignment on critique day or not having the appropriate materials to perform in class assignments will count as an absence.

Please turn your phones off before you come into the classroom.

You will be graded each and every week on participation and on the work that has been added to your blog. This means that each and every week I expect you to be shooting toward your final project and add those images to the blog. you should expect to work AT LEAST 12 HOURS every week outside of class for this seminar.

#### Text:

Dale Carnegie, How to Win Friends and Influence People.

Stephen R. Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

We will discuss both of these books in class. Please read and review at least one chapter a week. It is expected that each of you will also choose an art book based on your particular interests to read, review on your blog and present to class. Please have this book by the third week of class, and be prepared to present it by the tenth week.

#### Supplies:

#### Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

Statement on Student Behavior:

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) Students must show respect for the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If an instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students, who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42-46 of the Texas A&M University-Commerce student guidebook's Code of Conduct for details.

Statement on Accommodations for ADA eligible students:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact me, and

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library, Room 132

903-886-5150 or 903-886-5835

Fax 903-468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

**One more thing. If your phone goes off, or I see you texting at anytime during class, you owe everyone pizza.**