ART 403  SEMINAR: PRACTICUM

Levels: Undergraduate
Location: Wathena Temple, Gallery
Scheduled Time: Thursday, 6:00 pm to 8:50 pm
Lecture Type: Face-to-face Instructional Method
Credit: 3.000

Instructor: Ginger Cook
Office Hours: by Appointment
c/ 903.517.6024 e/ gingersiscocook@yahoo.com

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:
Due to the rising cost of photography textbooks that are outdated by the time of publication, there is no mandatory text. Below is a list of selected texts that address various aspects of best practices in the business of art that you might want to add to your personal library.


Course Description:
This course is a culmination of the student’s educational and personal experiences in the art program. On a practical level, this course prepares the student to take the next career step, whether they are going into the job market as a professional artist, looking for gallery representation, or continuing their education at the graduate level. Students will explore the various opportunities for artists in a variety of fields by individual interviews and class visits from/to working professionals. Students will also participate in gallery shows and art competitions.

Practicum addresses professional issues such as portfolio preparation, approaching galleries, establishing alternative spaces, internships, residencies, and granting opportunities. Preparation for graduate school, exhibition, and installation strategies will be central to the class. Reading and field trips to commercial and alternative galleries and museums will support an interdisciplinary approach to professional practice.

Guest lecturers and course faculty will cover establishing a studio, copyright issues, tax and legal documents, and general professional business startup and concerns. Visiting artist presentations connect abstract information with real-world experience.

The class is a seminar with practical applications: It is part laboratory for hands-on projects and part discussion group. Projects include creation of a professional website; creation of a professional resume; creation of writing samples; application for a grant; public speaking. Class trips to galleries and museums will form the basis for discussions about contemporary art and for critical writing assignments. Topics under discussion include: The transition from student to professional; job searches; gallery contracts; grant applications; graduate school options; trends in contemporary art. Class attendance and participation are mandatory.
Goals/Rationale

- This course targets students who intend to continue their practice as an artist after graduation.
- This course is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the usual and customary best practices of becoming a working artist.
- Students will have the opportunity to develop personalized professional goals and objectives.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester, students will have a website for their work; a resume, an artist statement, and writing samples. They will know how to apply for a grant, and they will be aware of the possibilities for employment and exhibition in the arts.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will have access to a Macintosh OS X computer and print lab equipment with all the software needed to complete assignments and exercises.

Students will need to provide the following:
- Notebook/ All students will be responsible for notes on ALL information given during class and lab time.
- Internet connection
- Word Processor
- Spread Sheet such as Excel

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course will consist of a series of art practice assignments and exercises to assist you in achieving the objectives of this course. Each week you will work on various assignments and participate in discussions and critiques.

There will be a number of guest speakers who are currently engaged in various forms of the business of art in order to give you the most up-to-date information on what is working and not working in today's market.

Each class will consist of a combination of some or all of the following activities:
- Lecture by instructor on specific art business practices;
- Guest speaker on specific practices;
- Technical instruction on how to accomplish specific assignments;
- Discussion on various aspects of art business practices, and
- Critique of course assignments;
- Participation in a gallery show.

Attendance:
Attendance is very important for your success in this course. We meet once a week and therefore each class will cover a variety of materials. Attendance is required and is recorded at all class and out of class meetings. A total of 3 absences will result in a failing grade ("F") for the class. Excused absences are listed under Class Attendance (A13.02) in the A&M-Commerce Procedures. Verifiable excuses for absences must be provided to the instructor at the next class meeting after the absence.

Grading:
Your final grade will be derived from the following sources:

1. Class Participation:
The way you conduct yourself in class is extremely important. During critiques, artist talks, guest speakers and gallery nights, it is important to express your thoughts and feelings about the materials being presented.

2. Gallery Participation:
Gallery presentations will generally be devoted to learning specific aspects of gallery/museum practices. This is your time to learn how to present your work and interact with fellow artists and gallery owners.

3. Assignments and Exercises:
You will have weekly assignments that are graded on how well you address a specific area of an art practice. Each assignment, unless otherwise noted, will be given a numerical grade. Remember your work must be well-designed and it must be specific to developing your art practice.

4. Submission to Art Competitions:
You are required to submit your work to at least 3 art competitions during the semester.

5. Final Project:
Students will participate successfully in the Senior Art Show.

At the end of the semester all the grades will be averaged and the following scale will be used:
A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60 and F = 59 to 0.

No extra credit assignments will be provided.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement: Please contact me through email. Appointments are encouraged.
Email: gingersiscocook@yahoo.com
Office Hours: By appointment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Procedures & Policies for Submission of assignments
A. Due Date: All assignments and exercises are due on the date and time given by the instructor.

B. Assignment submissions will be printed and submitted according to instructor's directions.

University Specific Procedures:

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:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

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 Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If the 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 Codes of Conduct for details.

*Student Conduct/Citizenship:*
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook). Students are expected, at all times, to recognize constituted authority, to conform to the ordinary rules of good conduct, to be truthful, to respect the rights of others, to protect private and public property, and to make the best use of their time and effort toward the educational process.