

# **Experimental Concepts / Art 380**

*Josephine Durkin*

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## **SYLLABUS**

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### **EMAIL**

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### **OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment  
Main Art Building, Room A116

### **CLASS INFO / When and Where**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 – 10:50 a.m.  
Sculpture Lab (ASL119)

### **CREDIT**

Much of the content in this syllabus comes from, or is based on, the work of Barbara Frey, former Professor of Art (Ceramics). Professor Frey created this course many years ago and taught it up until her recent retirement. I am using her course structure as a guide, but have tailored assignments and course materials to incorporate my areas of research.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In-depth experimentation with concepts that address the creative process. Media selection is up to the individual student with the intent of arriving at innovative and effective individual expressions that explore the relevant concepts. This course focuses on the creative process, the development and expression of content, and art as a vehicle for meaning. Assigned exercises and projects will explore various conceptual concerns that are relevant to the creative process and/or current concerns in art making.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES / Student Learning outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate:

- an increased understanding of the stages of the creative process
- the ability to analyze and discuss, in an articulate, thoughtful manner, the work presented at class critiques; focusing on design, subject matter, content, and selection and utilization of materials and methods

- the ability to present and install work in an effective way
- the ability to formulate an artist's statement which complements the creative work

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Attendance is mandatory.** Students are expected to be present in each class, for the entire class period. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. A student who is not present when roll is taken will be counted as absent. **No distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences.** If you arrive in class after the roll has been taken but within the first 15 minutes of class, you will be marked tardy instead of absent. A tardy counts as ½ an absence. Students are allowed five absences, **which includes** the two class days that will be dedicated solely to out-of-class research. Therefore, in addition to the two out-of-class research days, students may miss up to three classes for excused and/or unexcused reasons. Each additional absence after the fifth absence will lower the student's course grade by one full letter.

**A student who misses a class or is late for class is still responsible for any material discussed and any announcements made during class. The student is also responsible for making up the missed work time.**

2. **Work outside of class is required.** However, work outside of class does not take the place of in-class work and participation. **A consistent, sustained work ethic is essential.**

3. **Timely completion of all projects, exercises, and reading assignments.** All work is to be completed and installed prior to 8:00am the day of the critique. Unfinished work will not be included in the critique. Late work will **only** be accepted one class after the due date and will automatically be assessed a full letter grade lower. Work not completed by the class day after the critique will receive a failing grade. **“Stealth art” (work that appears at the critique without having been seen during its development by the instructor) is not acceptable, will not be critiqued, and will receive a failing grade.**

4. **Discussion and criticism** are necessary for artistic growth and development. In addition to attendance, specific, thoughtful, meaningful verbal participation at all critiques is required. The multitude and variety of thoughtful responses help each student strengthen and broaden their ability to describe, analyze, compare and critique work. Observations and constructive criticism offered during class critiques provide helpful problems and possibilities to consider during the process of making art.

**NOTE: I will be away from Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup> due to out-of-state research. Class will still run as scheduled via guest instructors, graduate assistants, and short-term assignments, including readings and responses to online content. To keep you on track during my absence, you will need to complete, document, and submit your work online. When I return, I will evaluate your work in person.** Feedback from other instructors will enrich your experience in this class.

## EVALUATION

Your evaluation in this class will be based on the timely involvement with and completion of all work: projects, exercises, reading and writing assignments, and class presentation. The projects are open-ended and responses to each assignment can be infinite. There is no singular, correct solution that should be sought. The success of a work will depend on the quality and integrity of the work and the degree to which it demonstrates the following abilities and skills:

- understanding and knowledge of the relevant issues
- innovativeness and creativity
- appropriate selection and expressive, resolved use of materials and techniques emphasizing excellent craftsmanship
- sustained, consistent work ethic; effective time management skills
- resolved and effective installation of the work at the critique

## FINAL GRADE

75% of your final grade will be based on the completion of 3 assigned projects:

1. The subjectivity of **perception**
2. Seeing, reading, and meaning: **text** in visual art
3. **Time**: its experience and representation in art; artist statement required.

25% of your final grade will be based on your **participation** in all aspects of the class, particularly as it pertains to attendance, preparation for class, and meaningful involvement in all class discussion, critiques, and exercises.

### Grading

A (Excellent) will be given to those projects which undertake and successfully resolve creative and challenging solutions; which demonstrate superior conceptual, expressive, and technical abilities. A sustained and committed work ethic must be evident.

B (Good) will be given to those projects that complete the requirements of the assignment in a creative way, display a good level of technique, and in which a good work ethic is evident.

C (Average) is given to those projects that satisfy the specifications of the assignment on an acceptable level.

D (Passing - Minimum) will be given to those projects which attempt to address the assignment but which demonstrate a lack of understanding, a lack of creativity, poor quality of technique, and minimal effort.

F (Failure) is given to those projects that show a complete lack of understanding, creativity, and effort.

## MATERIALS AND BUDGET

A sketchbook is required for taking notes, drawing, conceiving and communicating your projects and ideas. The sketchbook cannot have lined paper, and must be at least 8 x 10 inches large. You

may use a sketchbook that includes work for other classes, although work for other classes may not be presented as work for this class. Since this is not a medium-specific course, classes will not consist of material or technical-driven demonstrations. It is up to each student to research, access, try, explore and utilize whatever materials, techniques and assistance is needed for the development, construction and installation of their solution to each assignment.

Students may use whatever medium (s) are best to communicate their ideas - as long as materials and processes fit within the student's budget, and can be learned and utilized in time for the completion of the work by the critique deadline. In no way can it compromise, or have compromised, the health and safety of the student or others. (Example: Butterflies – I will elaborate on this).

Each student is responsible for researching, gathering, purchasing and gaining whatever materials and technical skills are necessary for the development, completion and installation of their project by the critique. As this is not a medium-specific course, it is impossible to estimate the cost of this class. There will be expenses and **you must be able to commit resources to this course**. Material needs and expenses will vary from person to person and project to project. You should budget funds for this class commensurate with other art classes.

## **UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### Students with Disabilities

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- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **Handbook & Safety**

While the online manual covers specific issues related to the Department of Art, Texas A&M University-Commerce policies must also be followed. All users of Department of Art (DOA)

classrooms and facilities are required to follow the health and safety guidelines outlined in this manual at all times. Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor(s), Teaching Laboratory Specialist, or to the DOA Health and Safety Liaison. Each course instructor will discuss their area's inherent risks, procedures and policies to provide the student with informed consent. These will be reviewed verbally at the start of each semester. A link to the online Handbook: <http://sites.tamuc.edu/art/resources/healthandsafety/>

Students that meet in face-to-face Department of Art courses must complete the online form for each course they attend. A link to the online form: <http://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>  
\*This must be completed on-campus while using the University wifi or ethernet connections.