SFA School of Art
@art_sfa

ART 494.001
Undergraduate Seminar
8-10:40 am T/Th
Instructors: Wesley Berg, bergw@sfasu.edu
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Course Description
A team-taught three-credit course aimed at helping students fully develop their personal artwork through group and individual critique, supplemented by gallery field trips, presentations, writing assignments, readings and discussions. The primary focus of this course will be on MAKING. The instructors are here to provide resources, support, and constructive feedback, but students will be developing their own ideas and projects. Formal critiques in the student galleries are scheduled for:

Sept 3-7
Oct 15-19
Dec 10-14

Group trips to view exhibits, presentation and writing assignments, readings, and discussions are intended to support the creation of artwork that is conceptually rich as well as aesthetically and technically successful and to help students develop as professional artists.

*A word about failure: Failure is a necessary part of the creative process. To make progress, artists must take risks. The only artists who never experience failure are the ones who have stopped making progress. Work boldly and make mistakes. Don’t hesitate to share your failures and frustrations with classmates and instructors. We are here to learn together.

Individual Reviews
Students must schedule an individual review with all three teaching faculty twice per semester. This review may take place in a studio or in another appropriate space. At least one class period prior to the review, the student should turn in a written statement about their work, inspirations, and process.

Course Requirements & Attendance
Attendance for critiques and class activities is mandatory. Students will be on their own schedule for work days. Keep in mind that for a three-credit class at SFA, students are expected
to do a minimum of six to nine hours work outside of class each week. Lack of attendance,
effort, or participation will be reflected in a student’s work and in his/her final grade. Students in
this course are required to attend lectures and exhibits by visiting artists at SFA. Visits by
contemporary artists are a valuable opportunity for exposure to new ideas/methods, as well as
for outside feedback and networking. Individual studio visits with visiting artists will occasionally
be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

D2L and SFA email
Students will be responsible for any postings or reading assignments posted on D2L, as well as
for emails sent by instructors through D2L.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the
class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or
disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be
asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. A full description
of university procedures and penalties in response to cheating and plagiarism can be found in
the online Student Handbook in the Academic Integrity section.

Accommodation of Disabilities: Rights and Responsibilities of Students
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students
with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services, Human Services Building, Room
325, 468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. If you are pregnant or should become
pregnant while taking this course, or have a medical condition that could increase your
sensitivity to chemical exposure, it is important for you to take all precautions concerning your
own personal safety. While reasonable measures have been taken to insure your safety, there
is a risk in this class of exposure to material that could prove harmful to persons at risk. Please
contact the professor should you have questions concerns. Students who need
accommodations for certified disabilities should work through the Office of Disability Services
and then your professor.

Grading/Projects
Students will be assessed on the quality of work that is produced and their progress throughout
the semester. Students will also be credited for their participation and preparedness for class.

GRADING:

A  high quality work
B  pretty good work
C  work has potential but needs improvement
D  poor work
F  extremely poor/no work

**Group Critique Expectations**
Work must be ready and properly installed before the critique begins. Students can check out the key from the Art Office to install in the gallery. Students will lead the critique and are expected to facilitate the majority of the dialogue. Students will be responsible for patching walls and cleaning up any mess left behind from their work.