EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
VISUAL ARTS
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Visual Art Art History
FA / VISA 4001 3.0 SECTION A
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES FOR VISUAL ARTIST
FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021
Last Modified Date: 07/24/2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces upper level Visual Arts Majors to the contemporary art world and the professional practices that they will encounter as emerging visual artists giving them the knowledge and the practical skills to understand the extended art community and to navigate their own diverse paths within it. Course content includes lectures on the structure of art institutions, including artist residencies and how artists can leverage their abilities to navigate this system. The course content will expand student's understanding of a professional studio practice, encompassing collaborative professional development with other disciplines (science, technology, engineering etc), artist driven curatorial projects, collaborative community based projects, and examining the possibilities for traditional research based practices (working with archives, educational institutions, etc.). Lectures, guest speakers, and field trips address a variety of topics such as an evaluation of graduate programs, grant writing, contracts, copyright / intellectual property, exhibition proposals, research practices and skills, networking, social media promotion, documentation archive, marketing and business development. Students evolve individual plans for transitioning from undergraduate study to post graduate study or work by researching and analyzing the requirements and limitations of opportunities relevant to their current practice and future goals.

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong, David Scott</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:darmstro@yorku.ca">darmstro@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

This is an online seminar course where “class time” will consist of weekly lecture content delivered remotely by the course director and supplemented by guest presentations discussing aspects of a professional art career. All course content (including live recorded and pre-recorded lectures) will be made available for students to access from the course Moodle site.

Class Format:
This course will be delivered in two primary ways:
- live (synchronous) lectures delivered and attended through video meetings (Zoom).
- pre-recorded lectures and other online content to be reviewed by students prior to the class in preparation for live group discussion (Zoom/breakout groups).

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

- Emerging Artists/Mentorship
- The Art World (Art Institutions)
- Artist Statements
- Careers in Art
- Commercial Galleries
- Art and Advanced Education
- Portfolios (Documenting your work)
- Art and Finances
- Art and the Internet
- Artist Residencies

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

The purpose of Professional Practices for Artists is to assist students in a broader understanding of the role and practice of professional artists, the spectrum of issues confronting artists today, and the breadth of skills required for success as a contemporary artist. Specifically, students will gain an overview of art institutions and their function; develop critical thinking skills allowing the students to analyze the opportunities and restrictions of the art institution/community; develop the skills related to writing as a professional artist; develop communication skills (written and oral) related to the professional aspects of a practice; develop long term and short term goals and implementation plans in relation to a creative practice.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Students should expect to treat this online course as they would an in-class course.
- Attendance at all lectures and presentations
- Completion of all assignments by the due dates
- Engaged participation and professionalism

Failure to attend a class will result in a 5% penalty on your final mark, and a second absence may result in a request that the student withdrawal from the course. Late arrivals to class meetings may result in a penalty of 5% for each offence.

Exceptions to the absence/lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter). Cell phone use is not permitted during our online class time. Turn your cell phones off before entering the Zoom meeting. Failure to comply with this rule will have an adverse effect on your final grade and could lead to failure of this class.

NOTE: Students need to participate in this course through video conferencing which means you will be asked to appear on video (e.g., for group discussion, presentations, etc.). Contact your instructor if you have questions or concerns about this.

Technical requirements for taking the course

In order to fully participate in this course, students need a stable, high-speed Internet connection, computer with webcam and microphone (external or built-in), and/or a smart device with these features.
A way to determine Internet connection and speed: there are online tests, such as Speedtest, https://www.speedtest.net/ that can be run.

Useful links describing computing information, resources and help for students:
Computing for Students Website https://student.computing.yorku.ca/
Student Guide to eLearning at York University http://elearning-guide.apps01.yorku.ca/
Learning Skills Services https://lss.info.yorku.ca/online-learning/
Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide
Zoom@YorkU Best Practices
https://staff.computing.yorku.ca/wpcontent/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/Zoom@YorkU-BestPracticesv2.pdf

Assessment
Participation 10%
Journals 20%
Assignment One written artist statement 20%
Assignment Two video artist statement 25%
Assignment Three application 25%

Failure to complete any project or to participate in discussion, lectures and readings will result in failure of this class.

Participation: Active participation in class meetings, and group discussions. 10%

Assignments: Journals
Weekly journal, submitted on Moodle on the Wednesday following each week’s lecture (10 in total). This should be 300-400 words, summarizing and reflecting on at least two key points from that week’s lecture topic. The focus should be writing in your own voice and adding personal insight and perspective (ie. the questions and comments that reflect your experience). You will gather your 10 Journal entries and submit them as one file at the end of the term (you will be given a weekly completion grade + a final submission grade). Final end of term submission: File format: Word document (.doc, .docx) Due: Week 12 (submit through Moodle, Friday 11:55 pm) 20%

One: Written artist statement Students will develop a finished artist statement describing key aspects of the student’s own art and practice, while outwardly connecting it to a context of medium, ideas, and community. 400 words, 1.5 spaced. File format: Word document (.doc, .docx) Due: Week 5 (submit through Moodle Turnitin, Friday 11:55 pm) 20%

Two: Video “artist statement” Written artist statement Using iMovie, or other video software that you have access to, create a 1-2 minute video profile which presents your artwork, process, themes, and who you are as an artist. File format: .mp4 Due: Week 7 (submit through Moodle, Friday 11:55 pm) 25%

Three: Applications Option 1: One graduate program application to a Canadian or international school that includes the rationale for the selection of this program in relation to the student’s own work.
Option 2: A completed grant application to an arm’s length granting organization. Due: Week 12 (submit as a .pdf file through Moodle, Friday 11:55 pm) 25%

Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties, Final Submission Date
All assignments for this course must be received on the due date (see due dates below) and submitted through the course Moodle site. Assignments submitted by email will not be accepted. There will be no extensions except for verified medical reasons. The graded assignments will be returned within two weeks.
Lateness Penalty Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one-half letter grade (1 grade point) per day that the assignment is late.
Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness will be given consideration only if documentation such as a doctor’s letter is provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Academic Policies / Information

NOTE: Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 6, 2020

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct

Additional information:
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

- Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

- Manage my Academic record http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/
- “20% Rule” No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Bibliography

Course readings will be presented via Moodle, and will draw from some of the following sources:

Buckley, Brad, and Conomos, John, eds. Rethinking the Contemporary Art School: the Artist, the PhD, and the Academy. Halifax, NSCAD Press, 2010.
Haesaerts, Paul. Visit to Picasso, 1949, YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MngzktMovO4
Namuth, Hans. Jackson Pollock 51, 1951, YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cgBvpjwOGo

Links
Councils and Associations: Canada Council for the Arts: The Canada Council is an arms-length agency of the Federal government of Canada. It was established in 1957 to foster and promote the production the arts in Canada. One of its main branches is its grant programs. https://canadacouncil.ca/
Ontario Arts Council: OAC is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and since 1963 it has served as the primary funder of the arts in the province. One of its main branches is its grant programs. http://www.arts.on.ca/home
Toronto Arts Council: TAC is the City of Toronto’s funding body for artists and arts organizations. Since 1974, TAC has played a major role in the city’s cultural industries by supporting a very broad range of artistic activity. From the emerging artist to the most established, from celebrated institutions to arts that challenge convention, TAC is typically the first funder to offer support. https://torontoarts council.org/home
CARFAC: This provincial association of professional visual and media artists develops policies, publications and services that help artists, galleries, curators, art patrons and other stakeholders create an economic climate that benefits all visual artists. (each province has a branch). www.carfacontario.ca
Ontario Association of Art Galleries: This not-for-profit association represents Ontario's public and private sector art galleries. It encourages members to work in close cooperation with the Ontario Arts Council, helps visual art centres in the province promote high standards of excellence and uniform methods in the care and presentation of works of art, and advises on matters of professional interest. http://oaag.org/

Other Associations and Resource Guides for Artists:
Artists Health Alliance: health and wellness support for artists. https://artistshealth.com/
Vocational Information Center: A visual arts career guide. www.khake.com

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.
Moodle @ York University