

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
Art 281: Building Context in the Work
Spring Semester 2020

Art 281 Topics in Advanced Painting: W 6:00 - 8:45 PM | Art Building IS219 | Prerequisites: Graduate Standing, or instructor consent | Units: 3

i: SHAUN O'DELL

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i: Art Department

o: ART 116

w: www.sjsu.edu/art

e: art@sjsu.edu

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

- E-mail is generally the best method of contact during non-office hours.
- Please allow 48-hours for an email response.
- Emergency: 911
- Campus Escort: 42222
- Individuals with disabilities may contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), Administrative Building 110, 408/ 924-6000, for a variety of formats such as Braille, large print, sign interpreters, assistive listening devices, audio tape and accommodations for physical accessibility.

COURSE INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary graduate peer-group seminar is dedicated to the artistic creation, presentation, discussion and critique of graduate student artwork. Students will be required to present their studio work, articulating the ideas and processes within their practice through visual presentations, group critiques and ongoing peer-to-peer dialogue.

As an interdisciplinary critique seminar, students will bring a wide range of materials and methods, as well as a diverse range of theoretical and philosophical positions to the table.

Students will be responsible for leading discussions concerning their own work as well as the work of other artists influential in their creative praxis. Students will be expected to engage the larger arts community of the Bay Area through attendance at gallery openings, studio visits, cultural events and regular visiting artist presentations at SJSU.

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas](#).

FORMAT

Seminar

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course requirements Reading materials, learning activities, and assignments contribute to or are aligned with course learning outcomes. More details can be found from [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.

SKILL LEARNING OUTCOMES

SLO 1: Advance individual creativity and research leading toward successfully graduate thesis project.

SLO 2: Identify, compare and articulate contemporary art strategies from examples, readings and their own work in discussion and writing.

SLO 3: Articulate what it means to create works of art in contemporary culture, speak and write clearly about their own work in relation to art and culture.

CLO 4: Develop professional strategies and objectives for success inclusive of exhibition, publishing, funding, marketing and personal goals.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be made available on the Canvas Course Site.

Other Readings

Boris Groys, essay Politics of Installation, from Going Public

Each student will assign one reading to the group no later than two weeks in advance of their respective critique session. Students are encouraged to develop their catalogue of writers, essayists, and critical theorists for personal research and reference.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)

All studio classes that use any “hazardous materials” should include one graded assignment that helps students understand HAZMAT regulations and develop consistently safe practices—this might be as simple as a labeling assignment. Note that food containers cannot be used for chemical storage and that common household items (bleach, vinegar, etc.) are deemed hazardous materials and must be stored appropriately. The campus EHS (Environmental Health & Safety) office and the County will schedule inspections with increasing frequency; fines assessed by the County are now high enough to put us out of business, so this is a serious matter. The techs are NOT responsible for cleaning up facilities and classrooms and offices—this is your responsibility. If you need information or help, please let us know. Additional note: clutter is deemed a hazard, and we can be fined for clutter. Basic training powerpoint: <http://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/docs/hazmatandlabsafetyguidance.pdf>

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu phone: (408) 808-2094

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library 4th Floor Administration Offices

Shop Safety

Safety tests for Spring 2020 will ONLY be given between January 22nd and February 4th.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation	30%
Critiques (Studio Visits) ● The Work 60% ○ Presented Work 50% ○ Title & Documentation 10% ● The Work in Relation to your Artist Statement 20 % ● The Work in Relation to your Assigned Essay & Artist Examples 20 %	40%
Artist Statement (Final)	20%
Journal	10%

Participation

Students are required to attend scheduled class meetings and engage in meaningful dialogue. Participation in group critiques is essential.

Critique (Studio Visits)

Each student will receive two visits to their studio to review work in progress and finished projects. Students will submit a contextual essay and inspirational works from three artists for class review no later than 1 week before their visit. On the day of the review the students will provide discussion directives to Canvas for class review. An artist statement with project documentation will be due the week after your review.

Critical Reading

On the day of their critique, students will lead a discussion of a critical reading of their own selection. They should be prepared to discuss the text in relation to their own practice, the three other artists, and within a historical/social/political context. Students should create an outline for the discussion and present the class with 3 questions for group discussion.

Artist Statement

Students should begin the semester with a minimum one-page statement, working towards a full three-page artist statement due at the end of the semester. One page statements should be presented to the class on the day of the student's first critique. A revised and lengthier statement should be presented to the class on the day of the student's second critique. A full three-page statement is due on the final exam day.

Journal

Students are required to maintain a research journal throughout the semester. The journal should include notes from student's personal critique sessions, sketches, outlines for artist statement, and pertinent information relating to studio practice. Every week the students will submit: one mid-career artist, one emerging artist, and one established artist they draw inspiration from as well as one critical essay they find useful.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Students are responsible for attending and participating in ALL seminar discussions and must complete a journal of documentation containing personal writings and research informing their work which serves as the final exam.

Grading Information

Critiques will be evaluated on the following categories
You will not receive a grade until the following is submitted to Canvas:

1) Documentation (even if work in progress)

- Photograph (.jpg 1200 pixels on the longside)
- Stills/Storyboard (.jpg 1200 pixels on the long side)
- Sketches/Tests/Mockups (.jpg 1200 pixels on the long side)
- Video (link)

2) Work list

- Title
- Medium
- Size/Duration

3) Artist statement that addresses

- Process/Tools
- Inspiration (existing work)
- Concept

4) Critical Essay that helps inform your process

5) Examples of Three Artists Projects that the work is in conversation with

Determination of Grades

A = 100 - 90% Exceptional.

Overall - The student's presented work demonstrates an exceptionally clear understanding of the concerns of their practice in terms of its professional excellence; is exceptionally original in its exhibition of practice and research; deploys comprehensive and outstandingly innovative critical analyses of the concerns and contexts of their practice; utilise source material highly effectively in order to achieve the original and self-directed objectives of their individual practice and research.

Writing - Essays demonstrate highly original independent research advancing the student's understanding and contextualisation of their key concerns; comprehensively and rigorously analyse the relevant sources to establish a well-articulated independent critical position; clearly demonstrate that the adopted mode of writing enables the rigorous articulation of an independent and imaginative critical position.

B = 89 - 80% Above Average

Overall - The student's presented work: demonstrates a high degree of understanding the concerns of their practice in terms of its professional excellence; is highly original in its exhibition of practice and research; deploys comprehensive and highly innovative critical analyses of the concerns and contexts of their practice; utilises source material effectively in order to achieve the original and self- directed objectives of their individual practice and research.

Writing - Essays demonstrate highly original independent research advancing the student's understanding and contextualisation of their key concerns; rigorously analyse the relevant sources to establish a very well-articulated independent critical position; clearly demonstrates that the adopted mode of writing enables the clear articulation of an independent and imaginative critical position.

C = 79 - 70% Average

Overall - The student's presented work: demonstrates an good understanding the concerns of their practice in terms of its professional excellence; is very original in its exhibition of practice and research; deploys comprehensive and innovative critical analyses of the concerns and contexts of their practice; utilises source material well in order to achieve the original and self directed objectives of their individual practice and research.

Writing - Essays clearly demonstrate independent research advancing the student's understanding and contextualisation of their key concerns; clearly analyses the relevant sources to establish an independent critical position; demonstrates that the adopted mode of writing enables a good articulation of an independent or imaginative critical position.

D = 69 - 60% Unsatisfactory

Overall - The student's presented work: demonstrates an attempt to understand the concerns of their practice in terms of its professional excellence; is lacking in exhibition of practice and research; attempts critical analyses of the concerns and contexts of their practice; utilises source material in order to meet the bare minimum of self -directed objectives of their individual practice and research.

Writing - Essays demonstrate independent research and basic understanding and contextualisation of the student's concerns; analyze the relevant sources to establish an informed critical position; demonstrate that the adopted mode of writing articulates an critical or independent position.

F = < 60% Fail

Overall - The student's presented work: does not demonstrate any understanding the concerns of their practice in terms of its professional excellence; fails to address its exhibition of practice and research; deploys little critical analyses of the concerns and contexts of their practice; does not utilize source material appropriately or critically.

Writing - Essays do not demonstrate independent research or contextualisation of their concerns; fail to analyse the relevant sources to establish a critical position; do not demonstrate that the adopted mode of writing enables the articulation of a critical or independent position

Please note: Except in cases of documented emergencies, incomplete grades are not given in this course.

“All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Email

All emails MUST include Art 281 in the subject line for priority filtering. Expect a reply within 1-2 business days (Monday-Friday). Emails that don't include Art 281 won't be answered as quickly.

Attendance

Show up on time. If you need to miss a class, let me know ahead of time and tell me what you will do to make up the missed work and when you will turn it in.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu.

Art 281 / Interdisciplinary Critique, Section 01, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

*This calendar is subject to change. Students are responsible for checking the Calendar in Canvas for updates

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	JAN.29	Course introduction. Critique practices. Schedule Critiques. In-Class Assignment "What is my inquiry/question" and Talk About Confidence
2	FEB.5	Student Presentations Previous Work & 3 Examples of influential ideas: An artist, something not art, 2min film clip Reading: Boris Groys, <i>Politics of Installation</i> *ORLANDO opening Feb. 8 5pm McEvoy Foundation
3	FEB. 12	Discussion: <i>Politics of Installation</i> Artist Statement, Bio, & CV Workshop Due: Draft of 1 page Statement, Bio, & CV
4	FEB. 19	Visiting Artist: Alicia McCarthy and/or Chris Johanson
5	FEB.26	FIELD TRIP//SFMOMA "Soft Power" Rosana Castrillo Diaz at Anthony Meier Sophie Calle at Fraenkel Gallery
6	MAR. 4	Studio Visit 1 – Critique and Discussion///ATC run-through
7	MAR. 11	Studio Visit 2 – Critique and Discussion///ATC run-through Gallery contracts and deposits due to the Gallery Office for grads going up for ATC.
8	MAR. 18	Final draft of Artist Statement, and Gallery Sitting Hours, due to the Art Office for grads going up for ATC.
9	MAR. 25	ATC
10	APR. 1	NO CLASS///SPRING BREAK

11	APR. 8	Studio Visit 2A – Critique and Discussion Studio Visit 2B – Critique and Discussion:
12	APR. 15	Long form Artist Statement///Individual meetings
13	APR. 22	Workshop long form Artist Statement
14	APR. 29	Final Presentation run-through workshop
15	MAY.6	Final Presentations
Final Exam*	WED. MAY 13	5:15-7:30 Due: Journal & Final Artist Statement 45 minute Artist Presentations

*There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.