

Art 281 ~ Interdisciplinary Critique Seminar

Department of Art & Art History
San José State University
Fall 2020

Instructor:	G. Craig Hobbs
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays 6:00pm – 8:45pm
Classroom:	Online via Zoom + Canvas
Email:	gcraig.hobbs@sjsu.edu
Office Location:	Online via Zoom
Office Hours:	Thursdays 10:00am – 12:00pm
Office Phone:	408-924-4401 (please use email instead)
Department Office Location:	Art 116
Department Website/ Email:	http://www.sjsu.edu/art/ art@sjsu.edu

Description

Art 281 ~ Interdisciplinary Critique Seminar is dedicated to the presentation and critique of graduate student artworks. Students will present their current studio practice/ artwork, articulating the ideas and processes within their creative practice through presentations, critiques, readings and peer-to-peer dialogue.

As an interdisciplinary critique group, students will bring a wide range of materials and methods, as well as a diverse range of theoretical and political positions to the table. Students will be responsible for leading discussions concerning their own work as well as the work of other artists as they relate to contemporary context(s) for artmaking in 2020.

Prerequisite: Graduate student status or instructor consent

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate their process and methods as working artists in the 21st century
- Communicate conceptual and aesthetic ideas in an engaging manner
- Present their creative and theoretical work in a professional manner
- Write about their own work, and engage relevant writings of others
- Learn to work within deadlines, completing projects by agreed upon dates
- Attend seminars regularly, participate in readings, critique, and discussions
- Write artist statements in preparation for exhibitions and CV/ portfolios
- Prepare for Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) presentations
- Mitigate the theory/ practice binary through open dialogue

Art Critiques

The semester will primarily be devoted to critiquing your work and discussing the assigned readings. During critique meetings we will be looking at the work of at least one student for approximately 1.5hrs per student (times may vary). You are required to conduct at least one critique of your work during the semester although we may be able to conduct additional critiques as our time allows. Participation in dialogue and the critique of other student work is a required and graded aspect of this seminar course.

Visual Lecture

Visual presentations and discussion will be conducted by both the professor and graduate students. By applying a visual culture approach to the presentation of historical, cultural and contemporary processes in the visual arts, the course fosters discussion through visual presentation. Media formats may consist of computer-based slide, audiovisual, books, artifacts, physical artworks, performance and other online formats.

Readings

Each of you will be required to bring readings to the table to share with your colleagues providing context for your creative practice. You will provide at least three readings in PDF format via Canvas (see Canvas CMS below). Please keep the readings to a reasonable length not to exceed 15 pages. This can be an excerpt from a larger reading about which you provide context in your discussion. The goal with reading selection is quality over quantity as it relates to your artwork. Each student will assign one reading to the group to read before their critique session.

Writing

Artist statements are the lingua franca of artist exhibitions and CV's (curriculum vitae). In the course of presenting your work in this class, you will be required to generate and share artist statements with the professor and your fellow students. These statements will be dynamic, working documents addressing the ambitions, influences, materials and methods of your creative practice. You are required to produce at least one completed 2-page artist statement by the end of the semester. In addition, you will be required to submit 3 x 2-page reading responses for both assigned and self-assigned readings.

Open Discussion

The first 15 minutes of each Tuesday meeting will be set aside for open discussion. Think about information you might want to present to the group: announcements of events, opportunities, openings and discussion of creative challenges you currently face as artists. We will end open discussion after 15 minutes to allow adequate time for the critiques and discussion of readings.

Primary Course texts

All required readings and pages are listed in the course schedule and will be provided in PDF format via Canvas. Students are required to download readings well in advance of course assignments and are encouraged to take detailed notes while reading assignments.

Art 281 Assignments	
Participation in weekly meetings and group critiques	35%
Presentation of artwork and individual critique	25%
3 x 2 page reading responses (5% each)	15%
3 x PDF readings posted to Canvas (3.333% each)	10%
2-page artist statement and drafts	15%
Total	100%

Grading Policy/ Rubric

A = 100 - 90% ~ Excellent = Graduate student exhibits exemplary comprehension and application of the required course materials. All written and creative work is engaging.

B = 89 - 80% ~ Average = Graduate student completes assignments, and demonstrates a grasp of key course concepts. Student actively participates actively in seminar discussion.

C = 79 - 70% ~ Below Average = Student completes the assignment but the work lacks enthusiasm or drive to push into a detailed creative and/ or critical space. The work is underdeveloped and/ incomplete, lacks research, proof reading, grammar and editing.

D = 69 - 60% ~ Unsatisfactory = Student does not complete the work as assigned. Substantial problems exist in submitted or incomplete work.

F = < 60% ~ Fail = Student does not submit work, or work is below unsatisfactory level.

Late Work Policy

Work is considered late if posted after the due date and time. The default time for submission of work is the beginning of class, unless specified otherwise in the schedule. For each day the work is late (marked each 24 hours by the day and time of original deadline), the work decreases by half a grade (a B+ goes to B-, a B- to a C+, etc.) Timely submission of course materials is a matter of curricular development and respect for the review and grading process. Excessively late assignments – later than one week after the due date - will not be accepted given graduate level designation of this course.

Course Website/ Canvas Course Management System

Copies of course materials - the syllabus, readings and announcements - are available via the SJSU Canvas course management system (CMS) <https://sjsu.instructure.com/> <https://sjsu.instructure.com> All assignments must be submitted via the Canvas CMS only.

Canvas CMS will be used for periodic announcements and any changes to the course schedule. *Please confirm your Canvas CMS primary email contact works!*

Classroom Protocol

The course schedule provides dates, topics, and assignments due on the day they are listed in the schedule. As a graduate student seminar, engaged and inclusive participation is required for all students. All readings must be completed on time and you should come to class prepared for a peer-to-peer discussion of the materials and topics assigned in the course syllabus. The course curriculum builds upon itself and requires active participation by students during assignments and in-class critiques. Please engage early and often!

Technology Intensive and Online Courses

This course adopts an online classroom delivery format via Zoom. Requirements for the course include internet connectivity and access to the Zoom videoconferencing software along with a computer to participate in the classroom activities and submit assignments. See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a 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 and Art History Library Liaison

The Art and Art History library liaison is **Gareth Scott**, a resource for academic and creative research. You may contact Gareth via email at gareth.scott@sjsu.edu or via phone (408) 808-2094 at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library/ 4th Floor

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 Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs Syllabus Information web page located here ~ <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and studio practicum. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Art 281 Course Schedule/ Fall 2020

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/25	Introductions, course intro, syllabus, protocol, questions
2	09/01	Assignment due: 2 page reading response to excerpt from Elizabeth Grosz, <i>Chaos, Territory, Art: Deleuze and the Framing of the Earth</i> (PDF available on Canvas)
3	09/08	Critique session #1, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
4	09/15	Critique session #2, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
5	09/22	Critique session #3, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
6	09/29	Critique session #4, v visual presentation, readings and dialogue
7	10/06	Critique session #5, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
8	10/13	Critique session #6, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
9	10/20	Critique session #7, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
10	10/27	ATC Critique session #8, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
11	11/03	ATC Critique session #9, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
12	11/10	Attend graduate ATC presentations via Zoom
13	11/17	ATC Critique session #10, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
14	11/24	ATC Critique session #11, visual presentation, readings and dialogue
15	12/01	Critique session #12, visual lecture, readings and dialogue
16	12/15	Final Exam ~ Tuesday, December 15th
<p><i>Note: This schedule is subject to change. You will be notified of any changes in a timely manner. Any changes will not affect your ability to complete the assigned coursework.</i></p>		