

San José State University  
Department of Art and Art History  
**Art 003: Medium and Message, Section 2, Spring 2021**

**Instructor:** Prajakti Jayavant

**Email:** [prajakti.jayavant@sjsu.edu](mailto:prajakti.jayavant@sjsu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. or by appointment.

**Class Days & Time:** Monday & Wednesday 10:30-11:45 a.m.

**Course Format:** Online only. Zoom and CANVAS.

**Course Description:**

This undergraduate seminar introduces intermediate-level artists to a research and project-based approach to art making with a focus on contemporary, idea-appropriate mediums and methods.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

CLO1: Demonstrate knowledge about different media.

CLO 2: Demonstrate and apply knowledge about the relationship of medium and content.

CLO 3: Demonstrate fluency in the language of visual critique.

CLO 4: Demonstrate sensitivity to a variety of media and cultural modes of representation.

CLO 5: Track their own iterative working progress.

**Required Texts/ Readings/ Videos:**

Available on CANVAS.

**Other technology requirements / equipment / material:**

- Sketchbook and/or binder/folder. Suggested size: no smaller than 8" x 12".

- Basic art supplies and found objects. Plan on spending at least \$50-\$100.

Please communicate with instructor if you do not have access to the following:

- Camera. (Camera phone is fine.)

- Color or black/ white computer printer.

All course materials such as the syllabus, readings, links, and announcements are available on the CANVAS page for this class. Any changes to the syllabus will be posted on CANVAS. Students are responsible for checking the announcements weekly. The Instructor has archived heavily detailed information regarding every facet of this class on CANVAS. Students are responsible to consult questions of a logistical nature such as assignment details, due dates, course schedule, etc., on CANVAS. The Instructor is available to provide assistance and feedback for art projects and written assignments via email.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

Studio activities, readings, videos, and writing assignments are designed to creatively and conceptually build upon, define and redefine ideas regarding subject, content, material, and method. Individuality, collaboration, logistical comprehension, innovative thinking, art history and culture are all topics that are built into the assignments.

There are two main projects that will be worked on mainly outside of class. Some class time will be allotted for individual feedback throughout the semester.

Project 1: 'Capsule' will be completed and critiqued first.

Final Project: 'Touchstone' will be worked on throughout the duration of the semester. Your Touchstone will be executed as two separate artworks. Each artwork will be made in different media. Students decide their own Touchstone ideas and media. The critiques for Final Project: 'Touchstone' will take place at the end of the semester.

Reading and writing assignments range from analytical to more freeform and creative. These topics serve as idea generators and things to consider in the context of different disciplines and projects. Questions or prompts will be given by the Instructor for each writing assignment. Responses should be at least 250 words and submitted via CANVAS. Responses are to be turned in on the due date at the beginning of class.

Visual art assignments are smaller exercises for students to experience the possibilities of meaning, materials, and art making. These are meant to be exploratory and experimental. Use your imagination.

Participation includes engaging in discussion, being prepared with the appropriate materials or assignments, overall effort and growth.

Important: I introduce concepts that interweave in complex ways. These concepts are developed, discussed, and integrated within the projects. Students are expected to maintain a consistent studio practice; be willing to learn; to move past their comfort zones; to exhibit significant effort for reading, writing, and art assignments. The enthusiasm and extent of your learning ultimately depends on the individual. The more effort that is put in, the greater the outcome for success in this class. Further information about teaching philosophy, art critique, fine art requirements, reading and writing guidelines are available on CANVAS.

All due dates are listed on the syllabus and on CANVAS. Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes to the syllabus will be made for the purpose of accommodating the trajectory

of the class content and timeline. Students will be given fair notice during class and via CANVAS announcements. Students are responsible for checking CANVAS weekly and for staying informed and up to date during any absences.

Basic grading structure is as follows: 2 Main Projects=40%; Visual/ Writing/ Reading Assignments=45%; Final Exam 5 %; Participation=10%.

Further details on CANVAS. (Rough point estimates: main projects= 20 each; small visual assignments =3-4 each; writing assignments= 3- 4 each; final exam=5.)

Everything counts. I am looking for overall effort and growth regarding every facet of this class experience.

Things to keep in mind:

- Bring your sketchbook to every class. The sketchbook will be viewed by the Instructor and possibly by members of the class. I would suggest refraining from recording personal entries in this sketchbook.
- Keep every single thing that is made or written for this class for the entire semester. Do not discard any materials. We will be referring back and reusing materials. Do not discard any of your ideas.
- I suggest reading each assigned text three times. It is important to be cognizant of the selected authors and their theories for the Fine Arts discourse. The chosen texts present a variety of theories that both support and contradict one another. Some texts may seem more challenging than others. It may be necessary to break down paragraphs into individual sentences in order to fully comprehend the style of language. Keep in mind that the simplest texts are often the most complex.
- Stay open minded. Be focused when writing. Always challenge yourself. Understand that constructive criticism is never personal. Work on your projects consistently throughout the semester. Be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Communicate and ask for feedback in a timely manner.
- **University Syllabus Policy S16-9** at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>. Office of Undergraduate Education's Syllabus Information web page at University Policy S16-9, "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 semester.

All course materials such as the syllabus, readings, links, and announcements are available on the CANVAS page for this class. Any changes to the syllabus will be posted on CANVAS. Students are responsible for checking the announcements weekly. The Instructor has archived heavily detailed information regarding every facet of this class on CANVAS. Students are responsible to consult questions of a logistical nature such as assignment details, due dates, course schedule, etc., on CANVAS. The Instructor is available to provide assistance and feedback for art projects and written assignments via email.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Studio activities, readings, videos, and writing assignments are designed to creatively and conceptually build upon, define and redefine ideas regarding subject, content, material, and method. Individuality, collaboration, logistical comprehension, innovative thinking, art history and culture are all topics that are built into the assignments.

There are two main projects that will be worked on mainly outside of class. Some class time will be allotted for individual feedback throughout the semester.

Project 1: 'Capsule' will be completed and critiqued first.

Final Project: 'Touchstone' will be worked on throughout the duration of the semester. Your Touchstone will be executed as two separate artworks. Each artwork will be made in different media. Students decide their own Touchstone ideas and media. The critiques for Final Project: 'Touchstone' will take place at the end of the semester.

Reading and writing assignments range from analytical to more freeform and creative. These topics serve as idea generators and things to consider in the context of different disciplines and projects. Questions or prompts will be given by the Instructor for each writing assignment. Responses should be at least 250 words and submitted via CANVAS. Responses are to be turned in on the due date at the beginning of class.

Visual art assignments are smaller exercises for students to experience the possibilities of meaning, materials, and art making. These are meant to be exploratory and experimental. Use your imagination.

Participation include engaging in discussion, being prepared with the appropriate materials or assignments, overall effort and growth.

Important: I introduce concepts that interweave in complex ways. These concepts are developed, discussed, and integrated within the projects. Students are expected to maintain a consistent studio practice; be willing to learn; to move past their comfort zones; to exhibit significant effort for reading, writing, and art assignments. The enthusiasm and extent of your learning ultimately depends on the individual. The more effort that is put in, the greater the outcome for success in this class. Further information about teaching philosophy, art critique, fine art requirements, reading and writing guidelines are available on CANVAS.

All due dates are listed on the syllabus and on CANVAS. Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes to the syllabus will be made for the purpose of accommodating the trajectory of the class content and timeline. Students will be given fair notice during class and via CANVAS announcements. Students are responsible for checking CANVAS weekly and for staying informed and up to date during any absences.

Basic grading structure is as follows: 2 Main Projects=40%; Visual/ Writing/ Reading Assignments=45%; Final Exam 5 %; Participation=10%.

Further details on CANVAS. (Rough point estimates: main projects= 20 each; small visual assignments =3-4 each; writing assignments= 3- 4 each; final exam=5.)

Everything counts. I am looking for overall effort and growth regarding every facet of this class experience.

Things to keep in mind:

- Bring your sketchbook to every class. The sketchbook will be viewed by the Instructor and possibly by members of the class. I would suggest refraining from recording personal entries in this sketchbook.
- Keep every single thing that is made or written for this class for the entire semester. Do not discard any materials. We will be referring back and reusing materials. Do not discard any of your ideas.
- I suggest reading each assigned text three times. It is important to be cognizant of the selected authors and their theories for the Fine Arts discourse. The chosen texts present a variety of theories that both support and contradict one another. Some texts may seem more challenging than others. It may be necessary to break down paragraphs into individual sentences in order to fully comprehend the style of language. Keep in mind that the simplest texts are often the most complex.
- Stay open minded. Be focused when writing. Always challenge yourself. Understand that constructive criticism is never personal. Work on your projects consistently throughout the semester. Be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Communicate and ask for feedback in a timely manner.

**University Syllabus Policy S16-9** at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>. Office of Undergraduate Education's Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> University Policy S16-9, Course Syllabi requires the following language to be included in the syllabus: "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 clinical practicals. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

**Final Examination or Evaluation** The final exam is the written response that students complete on their own prior to the final exam date.. Students must turn in this written assignment on the final exam day of the semester. Information is on CANVAS. University policy S17-1 "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

## Determination of Grades

A = Excellent ; B = Above average ; C = Average ; D = Below average ; F = Unsatisfactory

\*Effort and growth are the key factors for success in this class. \*

Instructor will assess grades by the competency, effort, and growth of each student's: participation; preparedness; effort; ability to meet deadlines; creative thinking; critical thinking; writing competence; execution and craftsmanship of ideas.

Grades are determined by college level standards for the Fine Arts. This includes text comprehension and writing quality. Crafts and video games are not appropriate for this class.

- ⤵ Late assignments will automatically be marked down by one third of the original grade. It is always in the student's best interest to, at the absolute least, attempt each assignment.
- ⤵ Failure to turn in three assignments will lower the final grade by one entire letter grade. Ex. If final grade was A, it drops to B. Failure to turn in 6 assignments will lower the final grade by two letter grades. Ex. If final grade was A, it drops to C. The final grade continues to drop when assignments are not completed or are not completed by the due date.
- ⤵ Missing main projects will receive a grade of F.
- ⤵ Materials are the essence of this class. Without the proper materials, you will not be able to successfully participate in the day's class. Not being prepared will lower your grade.
- ⤵ No extra credit will be given.
- ⤵ The quality of writing is expected to be at the college level. Writing should be focused, academic, professional, creative, and critical. Overt uses of quotations and paraphrasing are not acceptable. Students are expected to critically assess ideas and to thoroughly develop their own thoughts. {Accommodations will be made for students with learning disabilities and for students whose primary language is not English.}

## Grading Information:

97-100 = A+ ; 93-96 = A ; 90-92 = A- ; 87-89 = B+ ; 83-86 = B ; 80-82 = B- ; 77-79 = C+ ; 73-76 = C ; 70-72 = C- ; 67-69 = D+ ; 63-66 = D ; 60-62 = D- ; 59 and below = F

- ⤵ **IMPORTANT:** Plagiarism and the submission of former art projects are strictly prohibited. Plagiarism and the recycling of art projects are against school policy. Any assignments that are suspect of these offenses are required to be reported to and disciplined by the administration. Please familiarize yourself with the defining factors of plagiarism.

— Basic grading structure is as follows: 2 Main Projects=40%; Visual/ Writing/ Reading Assignments=45%; Final Exam = 5%; Participation=10%.

— Visual/ Writing/ Reading Assignments will be 2-5 points each. The grade given in points for each assignment reflects the competence and creativity of each assignment. For example: If an assignment is worth 5 points, a grade of 'D' would be 1 point and a grade of 'A' would be 5 points.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Students are required to complete all assignments by the due date. This includes: main projects, visually based art assignments, readings, written responses and any other assignment as indicated on the syllabus. All media must be submitted by the exact file types specified by the Instructor. Individual small resolution jpeg and pdf files are preferred. Do not send links to other websites, platforms, etc.

The most effective connection for Zoom is a computer. The extra use of phones, laptops, tablets, etc. are prohibited with these exceptions: 1) Family emergency or urgent health matter. 2) Designated photograph taking time for specific projects. 3) Specific film/ video projects. Note: No person or audio may be recorded without consent. 4) Documentation of artwork. 5) As technological assistance for accessibility purposes.

All class participants are expected to be visible by turning their computer cameras on for the duration of the class and for any other appointments with the Instructor. Being visible is a respectful gesture towards being part of a class community. Students will be normally muted but may use the chat window or the raise hand icon to communicate. Please note that the Instructor will field these requests after the lectures and pertinent information for the class have been presented.

Classes will be recorded to the cloud on Zoom by SJSU. Recordings will never be published by the Instructor or by students.

Students are required to bring in all necessary materials for each class.

For the interest of health and safety only use materials that are inanimate, non-flammable, and non-hazardous. Human and other animal substances are strictly prohibited. Please be mindful when using sharp objects such as hand or power tools on your own.

All students are expected to equally participate in class discussions and smaller group discussions. Please be visible to your fellow classmates during these sessions. Each class session is designed to build upon the next in complex ways. Students who miss class are responsible for catching up on their own. Do not rely solely on recordings, as technical issues do arise.

Every person is expected to conduct ourselves with respect for one another. Aggressive behavior, verbal insults, harassment, manipulative tactics, and inappropriate words or actions will not be tolerated. Such behavior will be reported to the appropriate university personnel for further assessment and possible dismissal from the class.

The role of the Instructor is to evaluate, question, guide, challenge, and provide critical feedback to students. Effort, application of ideas, attitude, and ultimately, learning, are all student responsibilities.

I am available to address questions and concerns during office hours or by appointment. Emails will be answered within a few days. If you would like extra help with a particular assignment, please contact me in a timely manner. All assignment materials are available on CANVAS which grants students ample time for review. Do not wait until the last minute or after the assignment is due for assistance. Please note that technology support, academic and personal counseling are available free of charge to students. These are the appropriate channels to attain such specified assistance.

### **Campus Academic and Personal Counseling:**

Details available on SJSU website.

Educational Counseling: (408) 924-5910

Academic Tutoring via the Writing Center: (408) 924-2308 [writingcenter@sjsu.edu](mailto:writingcenter@sjsu.edu)

Personal Counseling: (408) 924-5910

Campus Technology Support:(408) 924-2337 [ecampus@sjsu.edu](mailto:ecampus@sjsu.edu)

**University Policies Per University Policy S16-9** relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo> which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)** Administrative building 110. Phone: (408) 924-6000

**Consent of Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material** University Policy S-12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf> , requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus: “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.” “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course without instructor consent.”

### **Library Liaison**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

4<sup>th</sup> Floor Administration Offices

Gareth Scott email: [gareth.scott@sjsu.edu](mailto:gareth.scott@sjsu.edu) Phone: (408) 808-2094



## **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(H)(PHOT) 116, 408-924-4320 [art@sjsu.edu](mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

## Art 3 / Medium and Message, Spring 2021, Section 2

*\*Syllabus is subject to change per the discretion of the Instructor.Changes will be posted on CANVAS.*

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1		
1	W 1/27	First day of class. Introduction. Reading 1 assigned.
2	M 2/01T	Topic: Characteristics of materials. Drawing.
2	W 2/03	Topic: Identifying line through photography.
3	M 2/08	Topic: Constructed lines.
3	W 2/10	Lecture
4	M 2/15	Introduction to 'Capsule' project.
4	W 2/17	Topic: Texture/ Adhesive/ Support.
5	M 2/22	Topic: Joseph Cornell
5	W 2/24	Lecture
6	M 3/01	Topic: Alexander Calder
6	W 3/03	Studio/ meetings.
7	M 3/08	Studio/ meetings.
7	W 3/10	Lecture
8	M 3/15	Midterm critiques group 1.
8	W 3/17	Midterm critiques group 2.
9	M 3/22	Midterm critiques group 3.
9	W 3/24	Midterm critiques group 4.
10	M 3/29	No class. Spring recess.
10	W 3/31	No class. Spring recess.
11	M 4/05	Lecture
11	W 4/07	Discussion on reading.
12	M 4/12	Lecture
12	W 4/14	Topic: Video
13	M 4/19	Lecture
13	W 4/21	Discussion on reading.
14	M 4/26	Discussion on reading.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	W 4/28	Studio/ meetings.
15	M 5/03	Studio/ meetings.
15	W 5/05	Final Critiques Group 1
16	M 5/10	Final Critiques Group 2
16	W 5/12	Final Critiques Group 3
17	M 5/17	Final Critiques Group 4
Final Exam	T 5/25	Zoom. Tuesday 9:45 am- 12:00 pm