

San José State University

Department of Art & Art History

Art 281 Interdisciplinary Critique

Spring 2021, Online

Instructor: Andrew Blanton
Office: Art 311
Email: andrew.blanton@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: T 3-5 or by appointment
Class Day/Time: T 6-8:45
Prerequisite: Graduate Standing
Department Office: Art 116
Department Contact: art@sjsu.edu

Course Description

This interdisciplinary graduate peer-group seminar is dedicated to the artistic creation, presentation, discussion and critique of graduate student artwork. 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 further develop their artistic practice, articulating their concepts in both visual presentations and critique formats. Students are encouraged to engage in meaningful dialogue pertaining to their work and the work of the larger contemporary art sphere.

This course will also provide a democratic and interactive forum for the voicing of opinion in an informed context. Through essay readings, instructor and peer selected, students will develop applicable terminology and discourse surrounding their own art and practice, as well as their peers and artists. Students are expected to regularly attend local and regional art events, including, but not limited to, SJSU Tuesday Night Lectures, gallery openings, visiting artist workshops, Art Murmur, First Fridays, and others.

Learning Outcomes

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

LO1: Advance individual creativity and research leading toward successfully graduate thesis project.

LO2: Identify, compare and articulate contemporary art strategies from examples, readings and their own work in discussion and writing.

LO3: 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.

LO4: Develop professional strategies and objectives for success inclusive of exhibition, publishing, funding, marketing and personal.

Required Texts/Readings

There is no required textbook for this course; however, we will be referencing Creative Capital's Workshop book.

Other Readings

Each student will assign one reading to the group no later than one week 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.

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott is the liaison librarian for Art and Art History at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. He can be reached via e-mail: Gareth.Scott@sjsu.edu or by telephone at (408) 808-2094. His office is located on the 4th floor Administration Offices of King Library and he welcomes students to contact him with research questions.

Classroom Protocol

Course Requirements and Assignments

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

Participation: 40%

Studio visits/critiques (2 @ 15%): 30% Written response: 10%

Journal: 10%

Artist Statement: 10%

Written Response

There is one two-page, double spaced response paper of a chosen essay due the third week of class. The essay and requirements of the response will be outlined in the second class meeting.

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.

Artist Statement

Students should begin 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.

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

Grading in this course will be determined by a point system. There are a total of 1000 possible points that can be earned. At the end of the semester these points will be totaled, and your final grade will then be impacted by participation as outlined above. You will receive a grade upon completion of each project. At midterm I will let you know where you stand in terms of class participation.

GRADING SCALE

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Rubric

Overall artwork Quality	exceptional	strong	average	poor
Comprehension of medium, history and cultural context	Challenges Medium technically and conceptually	Strong Technical and conceptual work	Technically working with a concept	Project working with no concept or Full concept with a model that does not work
Engagement with work	Multiple ideas and approaches considered in the	Multiple ideas and approaches considered in the creation of an	An idea executed with expected	Insufficient engagement to

	creation of a unique work	aesthetically strong work	outcome in a medium	produce proposed work
Deliverable	Turned in on time with outstanding documentation on process and concept, portfolio ready	Turned in on time with full documentation of process and concept with superior reference and image, text video etc	Turned in on time with full documentation on process and concept	Turned in late with lacking documentation of process and concept

Art 281, Section 1/Interdisciplinary Critique, Spring 2021

Schedule:

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	Tue 02/02	Course introduction; Critique practices; Developing an Artist Statement
3	Tue 02/09	Studio Visit 1 – Critique and Discussion
4	Tue 02/16	Artist Statement Workshop
5	Tue 02/23	Studio Visit 2 – Critique and Discussion
6	Tue 03/02	Studio Visit 3 – Critique and Discussion
7	Tue 03/09	Studio Visit 4 – Critique and Discussion
8	Tue 03/16	Studio Visit 5 – Critique and Discussion
9	Tue 03/23	Studio Visit 6 – Critique and Discussion
10	Tue 03/30	Spring Break
11	Tue 04/06	Tuesday Night Lecture with Wafaa Bilal and Dr. Nada Shabout 5:00pm
11	Tue 04/06	Studio Visit 7 – Critique and Discussion
12	Tue 04/13	ATC 9AM-1:30PM

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	Tue 04/13	Studio Visit 8 – Critique and Discussion
13	Tue 04/20	Studio Visit 9 – Critique and Discussion
14	Tue 04/27	Studio Visit 10 – Critique and Discussion
15	Tue 05/04	Studio Visit 11 – Critique and Discussion
16	Tue 05/11	Studio Visit 12 – Critique and Discussion
17	05/25	FINAL EXAM; DUE: Journals and Artist Statements by 19:30