

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 281, Interdisciplinary Critique Seminar, Section 02
Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Chelsea Thompto
Office Location:	Art 311
Telephone:	email preferred
Email:	chelsea.thompto@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays 10:00am - 12:00pm
Class Days/Time:	Mondays 4:00pm - 6:45pm
Classroom:	Online (Zoom Link on Canvas Page) In person meetings will vary.

Course Format

This course will be taught in a hybrid fashion due to COVID-19 and the SJSU Adapt plan (more information can be found at the [SJSU Adapt Website](#)). The course will take place over [Canvas](#) and [Zoom](#) with supplemental in person meetings to be arranged after assessing the individual needs of the student's in the course. While not a technology intensive course, students will need reliable access to the internet and a device with a microphone and webcam as well as a means for documenting their work to be presented digitally for critique.

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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Advance individual creativity and research leading toward successfully completing their graduate thesis project.
2. Identify, compare and articulate contemporary art strategies from examples, readings and their own work in discussion and writing.
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.
4. Develop professional strategies and objectives for success inclusive of exhibition, publishing, funding, marketing and personal.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course

Other Readings

This class will engage with a variety of academic journal articles, news articles, and webpages. All required readings will be freely accessible via the class Canvas page.

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.

Other equipment / material requirements

A computer (laptop or desktop) and access to the internet will be required to participate in this course. A tablet or phone may work as well but may also make communication more difficult.

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

Email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

Phone: (408) 808-2094

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

4th Floor Administration Offices

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

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 statements, and pertinent information relating to studio practice. This may be physical, digital, or a combination of the two.

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.

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.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf>) states that "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

Grading Policy

Students are required to submit documentation of all course assignments on Canvas. Grading in this course will be determined by a point system. There are a total of 100 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.

Numeric grade equivalents:

Grade	Percentage
<i>A plus</i>	<i>97 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 96%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>87 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 86%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>77 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 76%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>67 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 66%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Rubric

Overall artwork Quality	Exceptional	Strong	Average	Poor
Comprehension of medium, history and cultural context	Challenges/engages medium in a technically and conceptually rigorous manner.	Strong technical or conceptual understanding and engagement of chosen medium.	Basic facility with technical and conceptual underpinnings of chosen medium.	Little to no concept or full concept with a model that does not work.
Engagement in Practice	Multiple ideas and approaches considered in the creation of a unique work that is aesthetically AND conceptually strong.	Multiple ideas and approaches considered in the creation of an aesthetically OR conceptually strong work.	An idea executed with expected outcome in a given medium.	Insufficient engagement to produce proposed work.
Deliverable	On time with outstanding documentation of both process and concept: portfolio ready.	On time with full documentation of process and concept with high quality materials (texts, images, etc).	On time with full documentation on process and concept	Late and/or lacking documentation of process and concept.

Note that “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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf>) for more details.

Equity and Inclusion

As an instructor, I strive to create an equitable and inclusive learning environment in the classroom. It is my honest belief that teaching is made more impactful and relevant through a conscientious effort towards centering inclusionary and equitable thinking and practices. This starts by treating each other with respect in order to create a [safe and brave](#) space for making and learning; meaning that we will all respect each other's multiple and intersecting identities including but not limited to: race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and religious or political affiliation.

If you have any concerns about the class, be it the way I am teaching, behavior you have witnessed, problems you think might arise, or anything else, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Additional Note

This syllabus is subject to change, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, or in the case that changes will significantly enhance the quality of the course.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), 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) (<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.

Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice and notice will be made via email and Canvas.

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/23	- Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introductions- Developing an Artist Statement- Class Modality Discussion
2	8/30	- Artist Statement Workshop
3	9/6	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY
4	9/13	- Studio Visit 1 – Critique and Discussion
5	9/20	- Studio Visit 2 – Critique and Discussion
6	9/27	- Studio Visit 3 – Critique and Discussion
7	10/4	- Studio Visit 4 – Critique and Discussion
8	10/11	- Studio Visit 5 – Critique and Discussion
9	10/18	- Studio Visit 6 – Critique and Discussion
10	10/25	- Studio Visit 7 – Critique and Discussion
11	11/1	- Studio Visit 8 – Critique and Discussion
12	11/8	- ATC Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Monday, November 8, 9:00am – 12:00pm- Tuesday, November 9, 9:00 – 11:30am
13	11/15	- Studio Visit 9 – Critique and Discussion
14	11/22	- Studio Visit 10 – Critique and Discussion
15	11/29	- Studio Visit 11 – Critique and Discussion
16	12/6	- Studio Visit 12 – Critique and Discussion
	12/8	Finals Meeting: 2:45 - 5:00 PM