Arts Seminar // The Chicago Program // The Associated Colleges of the Midwest

Fall 2014
Orientation: September 4, 2014
Arts Seminar: September 9-December 4, Tuesday afternoons & Thursday mornings (with some time flexibility for events at alternate times)

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773.316.0562, office hours by appointment, please allow 24 hours for a returned message (voicemail, email, text)

Any changes or exceptions to this syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor.

Seminar Description
The focus of the Arts Seminar is to provide direct experiences for students within Chicago’s arts spaces (on and off the beaten path) including, but not limited to, performances, studio visits, readings, artworks and lectures. Students will investigate how the history, architecture, art, and sensory impressions of Chicago structure and inform their experience of the city. We will explore the visual arts, dance, music, literature and theater as singular disciplines that are interconnected.

Seminar Goals
One of the main goals of this course is to introduce students to art theory, and to discuss how these ideas inform the work of artists in Chicago. We will read many of the primary documents that have informed recent debates on the nature of contemporary art practices. As students build their own unique perspective regarding life in Chicago, each will have the opportunity to document, analyze, filter and use their particular associations to inform each project thereby creating a bond with the city both as observer and practitioner in Chicago's arts community. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to summarize, interpret and deconstruct the readings and artworks discussed and created in class using accurate terminology and appropriate theoretical frameworks and bring this experience back to their home campus for further development.

The goal of each student should be to grow as a critical thinker, to express oneself effectively through individual projects and communicate with others constructively, and to engage the class with generosity and rigor.

Seminar Requirements

- Regular attendance is mandatory. Please be aware that while Tuesdays and Thursdays will be our “default” meeting times, the schedule of our meetings and field visits will vary. It is important that you check the Google site calendar for meeting locations, times, events.
• Completion of all assignments and readings is required.
• Attendance is not credited, but missing an event will result in a deduction of 2 points per event missed from your final grade.
• Attendance will be noted at the beginning of each meeting. If you arrive late to class, it is your responsibility to check in with me.
• Two absences will put you in danger of failing the course.
• Disruptive behavior may lead to dismissal from the class.
• All cell phones must be turned to silent during class. No calls or texting during class.

Seminar Communication

• **The ACM Google site is our resource for course related information.** Assigned readings, assignments, calendar, grades, contact and etc.. All changes in location, time, class cancellation, will be communicated through the Google site. It is imperative that you check the site regularly for updates.
• All assignments & due dates will be listed on the Google calendar.
• All site visits & pertinent information will be listed on the Google calendar.
• Email: Please email me with any questions/concerns/issues but also note that I am available & prefer in-person conversations. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to your emails.
• Check our Friday memo for ideas and information about related cultural programming and fun events in the city!

Grading Scale

100% - 94% = A, 93% - 90% = A-
89% - 87% = B+, 86% - 84% = B, 83% - 80% = B-
79% - 77% = C+, 76% - 74% = C, 73% - 70% = C-
69% - 67% = D+, 66% - 64% = D, 63% - 60% = D-
59% - 0% = F

A --90-100  The work is outstanding and exceeds the stated criteria in each assessment area. The information can be easily interpreted and is well organized. Credit for superior work that shows a fine degree of individual insight, application, and originality beyond mere absorption of assigned work.

B --80-89  The work meets all standards and exceeds them in a few areas. Credit for very good work done with intelligence, understanding, thoroughness, and industry.

C --70-79  The work meets all standards and the stated criteria. There are no areas of weakness and there are no outstanding elements. The work may be of average or irregular quality.
The work is significantly deficient in some way. Work of barely passing quality.

F --0 The work does not meet the assignment requirements in any way. Failure to produce work of passing quality.

Conflict
Should students have a conflict with the grading of an assignment, course content, pedagogical approach, etc. they are expect to discuss the issue with the faculty member directly. If the conflict is unresolved students should are encouraged to speak with any member of the faculty for advice.

Final grade disputes
Students have the right to appeal final grades for courses. They must do so in writing within 30 days of receiving the grade and provide rationale for the basis of the dispute.

Academic Honesty

Please familiarize yourself with the ACM Chicago Programs policy on academic honesty as stated in the Student Handbook. When in doubt find a way to give credit to an idea’s originator, even if that person's work is in the public domain. This may require some creative citations in non-written projects. Remember that it is also considered academically dishonest to recycle work you have completed for another class, past or present, here or there, without permission of the instructor.

Texts & Supplies

- readings as assigned; I will distribute copies &/or make all readings available on the google site.
- notebook or sketchbook for every class meeting, pencils & pens.
- Camera (please try to bring to each meeting, even if simply on your phone)
- any essential materials for your projects as we progress through the term

Blick: 42 South State Street

Materials may be provided dependent on the project. You may need to use technology such as Photoshop, InDesign, Final Cut Pro which is also dependent on individual responses to assignments. We will discuss available resources.
Assignments & Grade Distribution

50% Creative Work:
- 8 Manual of Recorded Information exercises
- Artist Statement
- Creative writing workshop

50% Research & Documentation:
- Public Art; Paper & Site Visit
- Artist Presentation & Paper
- 5 Journal entries

This seminar is based on direct experience & how you, as artists, “cultural workers or producers” respond, filter & create while immersed in that experience. We will be attending lectures, presentations with guest artists, workshops, performances, openings & a myriad of other events.

- Please note that projects may be modified to suit a specific set of interests or fields of inquiry.
- Please approach me with any questions or for more information.
- Late assignments will be accepted up to 2 weeks after the due date, however, 1 point will be deducted per day late.
- After 2 weeks, the final assignment grade will be 0.
- If the assignment is not digital (email-able, scannable, drop-box etc.) you may turn it into the ACM office clearly labeled with your name, my name & Arts Seminar.

Creative Work

- **8 Manual of Recorded Information exercises**
  Manual of Recorded Information: Students will choose 8 MRI exercises to complete over the course of the term. I will distribute the MRI from which you can select 8 guided exercises or activities to help spark your investigations.
  - MRI exercises due: please check google calendar for exact dates.

- **Artist Statement**
  An artist statement (1 page) that reflects your individual creative process, influences and references. More information and examples will be distributed.

- **Creative non-fiction writing workshop:**
  Three classes will be based on creative writing workshops and students will be required to review and critique each other's work in a respectable and scholarly manner. Students will submit completed writing by midnight. This experience will culminate in going to The Moth on October 28.
Research & Documentation

● **Public Art Project: Paper + Site Visit**
  Students will research 1 piece of Public Art located in various neighborhoods. I will assign each student an area of the city per the Public Art Guide. Each student will visit their site and present their findings to the group. A document containing pertinent links, dates and locations will be made available on the google site.

● **Artist Presentation + Paper**
  We will meet artists & see lots of different work this semester. Choose 1 local artist to research and present to the class. The person may be living or dead. You will write about their work, the significance of the work, context and relationship to Chicago. 3-5 pages and a visual presentation of 15 images (minimum), videos or any other archival findings.

  ○ Research Project Proposal due November 4
  ○ Project due November 25

**Criteria for Proposal:**
1. Please submit an abstract or thesis statement (1-2 paragraphs) that introduces your subject. Include pertinent information such as birth, death (if applicable) dates, type of work this person produced or continues to investigate. Describe the work.

2. Explain their relationship to Chicago & how it may or may not be relevant to their work.

3. Please include 1 example of their work--or include link so that I may find it & read/watch/listen/see the work.

4. Remember--you may choose ANY type of artist; visual, performing, music, writing...etc. Please do not hesitate to ask me any questions!

● **Journal: Tumblr**
  Entries are due dependent on events, lectures and other engagements. Check google site for due dates. I will provide a question or statement or ask you to reflect and summarize the weeks' activities. Our seminar will use tumblr for journal entries and as a general compilation of questions, comments and suggestions. Please also feel free to post links, anecdotes, places you've visited...anything you think we'd be interested in and I will do the same!