



ART + PROCESS

CREATING A BODY OF WORK

SYLLABUS

Course Description

In this course, you'll explore the works of several contemporary artists working with a variety of techniques. You'll experiment with these artists' techniques, ideas, and concepts by creating artworks of your own, inspired by their work. These experimental art projects will help you find an idea that you'll develop into a body of work. Get ready to play with new ideas, create, have fun, and talk with other students about the process of making art!

Course Details

Course Code:

Required Prerequisites: none

Duration: One semester

Course Materials: This is a studio art class and requires a variety of materials. All of the materials used in the course are listed in this document's Appendix. Not all of them are required. Be sure to look at the materials needed each week on the opening screen of that session.

Course Textbook: No required textbook.

Final Exam:

Accessibility: Virtual Arkansas continues to strive to format our courses to be compliant with the recommendations on the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#).

To ensure that students with special needs are being adequately served by our program, schools should send IEP and 504 modifications to the instructor upon enrollment.



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Course Goals

- Notice mundane events and objects around you
- Use symbolism in your art
- Tell a story with your art
- Reinterpret objects by adding and subtracting from them
- Examine the idea of precision as it relates to creativity
- Represent a personal and societal viewpoint at the same time
- Start a body of work with a concept
- Create new forms with familiar objects
- Use a documentary process in your work
- Work with negative space
- Investigate the difference between art and craft
- Examine the role of technology in our lives through art
- Invite viewers to interact with your art so that their participation becomes the artwork
- Study how performance art differs from theater
- Learn how contemporary artists approach portraiture



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Course Scope and Sequence

- Week 1 (Orientation)
 - Introduction to course content, navigation, assessment, and tips for success
- Week 2 (Session 1)
 - Explore the work of some contemporary artists
 - Critique some of your peers' works
- Week 3 (Session 2)
 - Continue exploring contemporary artists' works focusing on symbolism
 - Create your own superhero in the medium of your choice
- Week 4 (Session 3)
 - Continue exploring contemporary artists' works focusing on narrative art
 - Experiment with visual storytelling and create a project with a topic you care about
- Week 5 (Session 4)
 - Continue exploring contemporary artists focusing on improving their work by adding and subtracting
 - Experiment with reinterpretation in your own work
- Week 6 (Session 5)
 - Continue exploring contemporary artists' works through the process of precision
 - Create work inspired by the processes and concepts of the session's artists
- Week 7 (Session 6)
 - Explore the work of artists who have deeply personal connections to the issues that affect the entire country
 - Work with an issue you care about and experiment with layers
- Week 8 (Session 7)
 - Begin the process of understanding what is involved in building a body of work
 - Start preparing for your final project's proposal



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- Week 9 (Session 8)
 - Examine works of art involving found objects
 - Practice using materials in unexpected ways as you begin your body of work
- Week 10 (BREAK)
- Week 11 (Session 9)
 - Study why it might be important to document our personal histories
- Week 12 (Session 10)
 - Investigate how one artist uses negative space in their work and think about how such a process might have a place in your body of work
- Week 13 (Session 11)
 - Explore the similarities and differences between art and craft through the work of two artists who work with crochet
- Week 14 (Session 12)
 - Explore how different artists think about what technology mean through their artworks
 - Finalize your own body of work
- Week 15 (Session 13)
 - Investigate how artists might invite viewers to interact or participate in their artworks
 - Begin the writing phase of your final project
- Week 16 (Session 14)
 - Explore examples of performance art
 - Prepare an artist statement and share your draft in the class critique
- Week 17 (Session 15)
 - Study contemporary portraiture
 - Finish and share your virtual exhibition with your classmates
- Week 18 (Final Project)
 - Submit your final project



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Grading Policy

Students demonstrate their understanding by completing the following assessed activities:

- VoiceThread Contributions
- Weekly Critiques
- Quizzes
- Project Proposal
- Progress Check-Ins
- Final Project

Additionally, you will complete a few interactive self-checks along the way to see how well you understand the contemporary art.

Graded Items: More Detail

VoiceThread Contributions

You will use the VoiceThread tool to share your ideas—through video, audio, or text—in Sessions 1–12. You'll share what you notice and wonder about the art in Sessions 1–6 and 8 before you learn more about the works and the artists later in the session. These contributions are designed to help you carefully notice and talk about art—they are not meant to grade how well you can interpret each of the works after a careful study! In fact, these contributions are graded for completion only; the goal is to help you gain fluency in *thinking and talking* about art. Your VoiceThread contributions in Sessions 7 and 9–12 are focused on your own art and provide a place for you and the other students to share your thinking about what you might like to create and your plan for getting it done. You'll share your emerging ideas and plans early in the sessions as a way to quickly check-in with each other. *Sessions 1–12*

Weekly Critiques

In each session, you will share something you have created—an artwork or in the later sessions, drafts of written parts of your final project—with the class. You'll introduce your work in the Discussion Board/Forum by sharing what you were trying to accomplish and sometimes asking for specific kinds of feedback. The critiques are designed to help you make your work stronger. These contributions are graded, so it is important to write well (not like you are texting your friend!) and to be thoughtful about your response. It is equally important to look closely at your classmates' work and provide a thoughtful written critique for them. In the Weekly Critiques, your teacher will play an active role responding to posts and moving the conversation forward in a meaningful way. *Sessions 1–15*

Quizzes

The course has three short quizzes designed to assess your understanding of the concepts, techniques, and styles of the contemporary artists you study for inspiration. *Sessions 3, 5, 7*



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Interactive Self-Check Exercises

The course has three activities to help you check how well you understand the concepts, techniques, and styles of the contemporary artists you are studying for inspiration. To complete these exercises, you drag and drop images of unknown art to the known artist you think most likely created the pieces. These interactive self-checks are not graded but they are very helpful because they provide you feedback. Plus, you can attempt the self-checks as many times as it takes to get the correct answers. *Sessions 2, 4, 6*

Project Proposal

In Session 7, you will submit a written proposal to your teacher about the body of work you want to create. You'll describe the concept you want to explore, as well as the materials you plan to work with. You'll also share how the proposed body of work is inspired by ideas you've explored in the course.

The purpose of the proposal is to share your emerging ideas with your teacher to make sure you are on the right track in terms of the timeline, materials required, and expectations of the final project. *Session 7*

Progress Check-Ins

In Sessions 8–12, you'll complete a written progress report for your teacher to share what you accomplished that session on your body of work. The check-ins are graded and your teacher will look at them for the quality of your reflection—how well you answer the questions—rather than how much progress you made. *Sessions 8–12*

Experimental Art Projects

You'll complete an experimental art project in each of Session 1-6 that is inspired by one of the artists studied in that session. These projects allow you to play with different ideas, concepts, and techniques. Have fun with these artworks and pay attentions to what inspires you—you'll use that to create a body of work for your final project. *Sessions 1–6*

Final Project

For the final project for this course, you will create and exhibit a body of work that is inspired by one or more of the contemporary artists you studied in the course. Your body of work will consist of at least five artworks that work together conceptually as well as label text for each work, an introduction to the series of works, and an artist statement. In the last session, you will exhibit your work in Gallery5, a 3D replica of a gallery in the Crystal Bridges museum. As a bonus, you'll have the opportunity to do a Gallery Walk to view the exhibits created by all of the students in the class! This is the most heavily weighted part of the course. *Sessions 8–15*



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APPENDIX

Detailed Course Materials

Non-Standard Materials

Students demonstrate their understanding by completing the following assessed activities:

- wirebound sketchbook
- camera for photographing and uploading work (camera phone is fine)
- highlighter markers
- Sharpie markers
- fabric (Session 2, optional)
- functional object chosen by student, e.g., shoe, plate, shirt (Session 4)
- magazines/newspapers (Session 4, alternative to functional object)
- foamcore/cardboard (Session 5)
- pins for mounting (Session 5)
- fruit/vegetables (Session 5)
- transparent materials (film, tracing paper, or semi-rigid plastic packaging) (Session 6)

Standard Art “Kit” of Traditional Supplies

Use the supplies that you normally like to work with; you don’t necessarily need to purchase everything in the list below.

- paper
- paint (variety e.g., watercolors, gouache, acrylic)
- pencils
- colored pencils
- charcoals
- tape
- glue
- clay
- scissors
- x-acto knife

Photographing Body of Work

The following are required to photograph your body of work for your portfolio at the end of the semester, but you may be able to borrow these. Check with your teacher if you have questions.

- higher quality camera for photographing final work for portfolio
- tripod
- clip lamps
- white fabric or white cardboard (for reflecting light)
- cardboard box, fabric, tape (for 3D works)