

Figure Ground Syllabus

Collagraph - The Edge of Your Universe

Monday/Wednesday 11:45am - 2:45pm in FAC 318

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Office Hours: TBD in FAC 308

Course Description

This course will introduce the fundamentals of design and composition through the art of printmaking. You will be taught to use a set of tools, materials, ideas, and approaches that may help move your individual studio practice forward. We will be using the specific process of wet-media collagraph. This course depends upon seeing, doing, and thinking, while using demonstrations, exercises, and preliminary sketches to make a consistent suite of fine art prints.

This course will ask you to find the edge of the universe presented by the limited parameters of this medium. Then you will be challenged to cross it.

Objectives

This course is designed to help you to build your own language of images and transform them into 2 dimensional mediums. After completing this course you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of mark, line, shape, texture, space, and engaging compositional devices.
- Utilize preliminary sketches and translate them into print.
- Develop your own knowledge of print-based images as they align with your core practice.
- Create an edition and become technically proficient in producing a consistent and professionally presented print.
- Describe the specificity and limits of this collagraph process while challenging those limits.
- Develop a healthier and committed studio practice.
- Develop a visual philosophy and theme of your own and use it to create a body of work.
- Translate that theme into a well written and thought out artist statement.
- Take calculated risks in an effort to move your studio practice forward.

Key Terms

Visual Organization, Harmony, Balance, Variety, Proportion, Dominance, Movement, Economy, Shape Interaction, Positive and Negative Space/Shape, Figure Ground Relationships, Figure Ground Reversal, Tension, Pulse, Convex and Concave Edges

Materials

4x8' 1/4" Birch Plywood (2 students share/split cost). ↳Cutting specs on handout	Lowe's estimate:	\$18
Golden 16oz Hard Molding Paste. ↳ http://www.dickblick.com/items/00628-2166/	Dickblick estimate:	\$18.68
Spatulas, Bondo scrapers, paint brushes and other application tools.		
Newsprint pad 18x24 or larger ↳ http://www.dickblick.com/items/10311-1059/	Dickblick estimate:	\$8.30
Canson Edition Paper - Ten 22x30 - Potentially more depending on assignments \$5/each ↳ http://www.dickblick.com/items/10453-1412/		
Canson Edition Paper - Ten 30x40 - Potentially more depending on assignments \$5/each ↳ http://www.dickblick.com/items/10453-1414/		

Other materials as specified in class

Class Demeanor

This course will demand that you work in the studio during and potentially outside of class.

You are expected to:

- Attend class regularly*
- Arrive on time*
- Clean up after yourself, particular in the printmaking studio as it is a common space for several classes and the area should be respected.
- Come to the class prepared; there is no way to work in the printmaking studio without certain materials.
- Follow all safety procedures as demonstrated at the beginning of the semester. If you are uncertain as to what to do in a certain situation consult me.
- Be a respectful and active member of the classroom.

Studio Practice

- *Work clothes:* close toed work shoes, clothing must withstand dirt that cannot be cleaned out, work apron.
- No laptops, cell phones or listening devices out during class time.
- Backpacks, bags and bulky items are to be placed in the small litho room beneath by the window, and out of the way.
- Food and drinks prohibited except those closed with a cap or lid.

***Attendance**

The collagraph process is time sensitive, and requires active attendance. Absences count from the first class meeting. You are allowed TWO unexcused absence. Third absence and any subsequent absences will result in a letter grade (1 pt) demotion from the participation portion of your grade. Excused absences must be documented and will not cause a grade deduction. Please contact me if you will be absent or have been absent for any reason.

Students are responsible for any work missed on the day in which they are absent. Contact your classmates to fill in the information missed from that class period.

Religious Holidays

The following guidelines apply:

- Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith.
- Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.
- Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

Illness Policy

If a student is absent from classes or examinations because of illness, she or he should contact their instructors. Students should contact their college by the deadline to drop a course for medical reasons. Students can petition the [Dean of Students Office](#) to drop a course for medical reasons. The university's policy regarding [medical excuse](#) from classes is maintained by the Student Health Care Center.

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.

For more information go to :

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluation and Grading

- A (92-100) = Superlative work: careful attention to craft and presentation. Originality of idea and execution work together. Goes beyond merely solving the problem – one who performs at this level is visibly outstanding, work is outstanding in every respect. A- (90-91)
- B+ (87-89) = Very fine work: almost superlative. A few minor changes could have

been considered and executed to bring the piece together. Again, goes beyond merely solving the problem.

- B (80-86) = Above average: solution to the problem and idea well planned. Execution is well done. This is an honorable grade. B-(80-81)
- C+ (77-79) = A bit above average: slipping in levels of originality, craft, and/or presentation. The piece does not work well as a unified whole or statement yet effort was made.
- C (76-72) = You have solved the problem: the requirements of the problem are met in a relatively routine way. C- (70-71)
- D+ (67-69) = You have solved the problem but there is much room for improving your skills and developing your concepts further. You have neglected the basic craftsmanship skills, as well as the breadth and depth of idea development.
- D (62-66) = Inadequate work: the requirements of the problem are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/ or incomplete effort. Work is substandard. D- (60-61)
- E = Unacceptable work and effort / Not turned in

Find information on UF's Grading policy at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grade Breakdown

10	Participation: Includes attendance and taking part in discussions, demos, critiques.
90	Projects*
	↳10 Project 1: Part 1
	↳10 Project 1: Part 2
	↳10 Project 1: Part 3
	↳25 Project 2
_____	↳35 Project 3
100	points total

**Project Evaluations*

50%	Effectiveness of your added element. Does it help create a more stable composition? Is it being utilized to it's fullest extent?
30%	Conceptual content and use of representation, abstraction, or non-objectivity.
10%	Edition quality
10%	Artist statement

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code

(<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 352-392-1575;

University Police Department: 352-392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161.

University Police Department, 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to

Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center

Reitz Union, 352-392-1601.

Career assistance and counseling

<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support

<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center

Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio

302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints Campus

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

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	Monday	Wednesday	Notes
Week 1	-----No Class-----	-Go over the Syllabus/Course Calendar/Materials -Discuss projects ideas and objectives -Assign Partners	-Buy materials this week and be ready to begin working Monday -Formulate a concept to develop throughout the course
Week 2	-Health and Safety Presentation -Plate Prep/Plate Work Demo -Test Plate Activity -Press/Print Demo	-Begin Project 1: Part 1 -Work Day -Establish Print Schedule	-You're expected to work outside of class with and without your partner to complete your edition on time
Week 3	Martin Luther King Day No Class	-Artist Statement Discussion -Work Day	
Week 4	-Final Work Day Before Crit	Critique 1 -Have artist statement printed out and ready to turn in.	-Edition of 3 prints and artist statement due at critique
Week 5	-Begin Project 1: Part 2	-Work Day	-Pick a different mode of depiction from the previous project. -Continue working out of class
Week 6	-Final Work Day Before Crit	Critique 2 -Have artist statement printed out and ready to turn in.	-Edition of 3 prints and artist statement due at critique

Week 7	-Begin Project 1: Part 3	-Work Day	-Work in the last mode of depiction
Week 8	-Final Work Day Before Crit	Critique 3 -Have artist statement printed out and ready to turn in.	Edition of 3 prints and artist statement due at critique
Week 9	-Introduction of Project 2	-Work Day	You are expected to work in and outside of class to develop your platework
Week 10	-Work Day	-Work Day	
Week 11	Spring	Break	No Class
Week 12	-Work Day	Critique 4 -Have artist statement printed out and ready to turn in.	Edition of 3 prints and artist statement due at critique
Week 13	-Introduction of Project 3	-Work Day	You will have more time to work on this plate, final print should
Week 14	-Work Day	-Work Day	
Week 15	-Work Day	-Work Day	
Week 16	FINAL CRITIQUE	-Clean Up Day -Attendance is worth participation points	For Final Crit, Edition of 3 prints and artist statement, bring 1 copy of each previous project

