ART6933 FAILURE: Graduate Seminar
INSTRUCTOR: Lisa Iglesias
03 credits
FALL 2015
ROOM: FAD Seminar Room and other spaces, GRADhaus, TBD
MEETING TIME: M: 6:15-9:20pm
OFFICE HOURS: FAD 223 – Wednesdays 11:30a-12:30p or by appointment (subject to change)
E-MAIL: Liglesias@arts.ufl.edu (Professor will respond as soon as possible, approximately within 24 hours)


“As an alternative to the tedious embracement of ‘failure’ in the studio, I say instead, ‘just lie.’ Work towards the idea or towards misunderstood success. But for god’s sake, do not work to fail.”
– Painter and conceptual artist Michelle Grabner, on failure and success in the studio.

This interdisciplinary seminar will consist of readings, critiques, film viewings, and discussions that push forward conversations regarding the way historical and contemporary artists address failure in their practice. We will consider the topic of failure as an open, multidisciplinary site for logistical, philosophical, and societal questions. In regards to the connections between failure and process, we will take a field trip to Flying Horse Press at UCF in Orlando and visit printmaking alum Ashley Taylor. We will collaboratively maintain a seminar blog- adding images, text, and links to a reservoir of connected ideas revolving around success, collapse, efforts, and experiments. The Failure seminar will be associated with an exhibition at the Focus Gallery featuring work by the seminar participants: Necessary Failures in Spring/Summer 2016. An online PDF ‘zine will be provided featuring selections of writings and images relating to the theme of failure from contemporary artists, writers, and other culture makers.

This seminar has a two-prong approach:
I Directed research related to the continued development of individual studio projects and group critiques:
   Each graduate student will present new work to be critiqued either with small groups of participants (at least 2 of these) and one with the entire seminar (separate from this seminar’s requirement, each Painting/Printmaking/Drawing grad will also be required to participate in a critique of work with the entire faculty of the PPD Areas). Each student is also responsible for at least 3 studio visits with UF faculty of any discipline, visiting artists, and/or local artists before December 7, 2015 (one of these visits may be with a grad student). These visits will be documented with notes that participants hand in with the Final Packet. In addition, you are responsible for creating or purchasing a new sketchbook for this semester / academic year. The sketchbook entries may be used for your seminar blog submissions.
II Programming that includes readings, film viewings, blogging, and field trips, using the topic of failure as the fulcrum on which our seminar pivots.

Objectives:
- To foster creative growth and experimentation, and to strengthen your artistic voice.
- To mature critical thinking and communication skills through critique and discussion.
- To expand knowledge of research strategies, as well as contemporary and historical artists, writers, and curators.
- To enhance and embolden your experience and agency as a community member in the School of Art + Art History, at UF, and in the art world(s) and beyond.
Required Text:

We will read sections of the following texts and more (provided, optional to purchase):

We will view the following films:
Jodorowsky’s Dune, Frank Pavich, 2013, 88 Minutes, Monday, August 24
Fitzcarraldo, Werner Herzog, 1982, 158 Minutes, Monday, September 7
Inside Job, Charles Ferguson, 2010, 105 Minutes: Monday, October 12
Lost in La Mancha, Keith Fulton and Louis Pepe, 2002, 89 Minutes: Monday, November 23

2 Small Group Critiques:
- Small Group assignments – see course calendar page 3.
- Each group is responsible for electing a time-keeper and critique moderator.
- Assigned small groups are each required to invite at least 1 Guest to their critique group (faculty, local artist, writer, or curator).
- Each group participant is required to fill out a critique sheet for the subject (template provided).

Blog:
- We will be using a blog site as a collaborative seminar blog, address TBD
- You are responsible for contributing at least 10 blog posts throughout the semester. 3 of these must directly respond to any one of the chapters from the Failure ‘zine.
- You will be assigned one week to be blog moderator: you will be responsible for posting this week as well as encouraging/reminding colleagues to post (see course cal. for assigned week to moderate)

Statement about your colleague’s work:
- You are assigned a peer for whom you will write an artist statement.
- You will schedule a studio visit during the semester with this assigned peer.
- Your assigned statement-mate will provide you with a selection of texts they have formulated up to this point. These writings, your studio visit, and critiques will aid you in the process of writing your assigned peer an artist statement.

Final Packet, Due Monday, December 7:
- Notes from 3 (at least) studio visits including the dates and identities of each visitor (studio visit with the colleague writing about your work may count as one of these visits).
- Notes from your research meeting with Tom Caswell, AFA librarian: Subject specialist for art, art history, museum studies, historic preservation
- Bibliography of texts to be used in your thesis paper (books, articles, essays, etc).
- Screen shot of your blog entries throughout semester.
- Artist statement (1-page)
- Statement on your work written by assigned seminar participant (see course cal. page 3).
- Sketchbook

Evaluation:
50%: Performance in studio evidenced by prolific, tenacious studio work and critique experience
30%: Participation in seminar discussions, critiques, blog
20%: Final Packet
Grading Scale
a 95-100, a- 94-90, b+ 89-87, b 86-84, b- 83-80, c+ 79-77, c 76-74, c- 73-70, d+ 69-67, d 66-64, d- 63-60, e 59-0

In the spirit of failure, we will discuss rejection and acceptance and the application process (consider adding the following to your opportunity archive):

Resources: Opportunities you might consider applying for this semester:
- Application for a UF Center for the Humanities and Public Sphere Library Enhancement Grant: http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/proposals.html
- http://demingfund.org
- http://www.manifestgallery.org/about/submit.html
- http://www.newamericanpaintings.com
- http://research.ufl.edu/faculty-and-staff/finding-funding.html
- http://www.uff.ufl.edu/Scholarships/ScholarshipInfo.asp?ScholarshipFund=014889
- http://research.ufl.edu/research-program-development/research_program_development_docs/travel.pdf
- www.puffinfoundation.org

Material Sources:
The Repurpose Project: www.RepurposeProject.com, Monday: Closed, Tuesday-Friday: 1:00-6:00pm, Saturday: 10am-6pm, 1920 Northeast 23rd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609 Pay what you wish. info@RepurposeProject.org
SoMa Art Media Hub: New art supply store, 601 South Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601, http://www.somaartmediahub.com
Friends of the Library Book Sale: http://folacld.org 430-B North Main Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601, Saturday, Oct. 24: 9am - 6pmSunday, Oct. 25: Noon-6pmMonday, Oct. 26: Noon-6pmTuesday, Oct. 27: Noon-6pm 1/2 price day, Wednesday, Oct. 28: Noon-6pm 10-cent day
The Junk Lady: corner of NW 190th Street and HWY 441

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Seminar courses require intensive reading, reflecting and preparation. Your energy, initiative, attitude, productivity, informed and considered opinions are all vital components of the classroom environment therefore, your attendance is required. An absence does not constitute an extension of an assignment. Late work is not accepted. Be on time, prepared to work, with the proper equipment/materials and research needed for class, there will be no deviations from this policy.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
http://itl.chem.ufl.edu/honor.html

ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who will then provide this to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The ADA office (www.ada.ufl.edu) is located in Room 232 Stadium (phone 392-7056 TDD 846-1046).

CELL PHONES / PERSONAL ELECTRONICS:
Students in the SA+AH must turn off beepers and cell phones during class. Students will not be permitted to use personal music devices during class.
DEMEANOR POLICY:
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class and will negatively affect the course grade of the offending student.

SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS POLICY:
see http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/
Please read and respect studio use and guidelines posted in classrooms and at GRADhaus.

Failure PDF ‘Zine Contributors:

Andrew Sta. Ana
Brandon Som
Christine Hou
Colleen Donohoe
Courtney Richter
Erika Staiti
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Jason Mitcham
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