

Advanced Sculpture & Photography

ART 4710C Sec 4280 / PGY 4420 Sec 07F1

SAAH University of Florida

Spring 2018 / 6 credits
Monday/Wednesday: 8.30-11.30am (periods 2-4)

Fine Arts Building D, Room 329
Instructor: Sergio Vega <veryvega@ufl.edu>
Office: FAD 229 / phone: 352-281-7283
Office hours: Wednesday 12:30-13:45 (by appointment)

Lab/Shop Friday: 8.30am-2.45pm (periods 2-7)

Course Goals and Objectives

The objective is for students to start developing the standards of research, conceptualization and production expected from graduate students. In order to achieve this goal, it is crucial that students start employing an effective visual and critical vocabulary to substantiate their practice. Students will be required to produce a new body of work and to talk and write about it in relation to art history and contemporary art theories. Emphasis will be on the integration of studio practice and critical thought. It is expected that the theoretical investigations conducted in the context of the class will be employed by students to further develop their own artistic approach.

Methods of the Course

This course will consist on lectures, readings, class discussions of the readings, the assignment of written reports, critiques of student work and individual consultations. Artwork research and production will mainly be concentrated on one self-directed project. Projects will be developed through ongoing group and individual critiques. Students will also undertake a number of written and professional practice workshops to help develop their portfolios. The seminars will facilitate the development of student's historical and theoretical knowledge, as well as critical reading and discussion skills.

Topical Outline

1) The legacies of Dada and Surrealism: when things acts as something else

The legacy of Dada and Surrealism spans now throughout an entire century of artistic innovation which has involved a variety of mediums and artistic movements, extending its influence beyond the realm of high art into popular culture and the mass media. Starting as a feverish attack on bourgeois values in the aftermath of World War I, the Dada and Surrealist artists employed a range of artistic strategies to dismantle the conventions of artistic production they inherited from the nineteenth century. In its revolutionary spirit, this act of defiance with the world brought a new set of discourses to the foreground of art practices. In artistic terms they brought forward the strategies of the readymade and collage. In addition, they engaged in the deconstruction of language and exposed artistic experimentation to the forces of the unconscious, an enterprise that placed them in relation with the newly developing field of psychoanalytic practice.

In the context of this class we will be reading important texts related to Dada, Surrealism and their legacies as they apply to contemporary art and culture. Students would be advised to explore some of the current artistic strategies derived from these legacies through specific assignments.

2) Contemporary art: the modality of artistic practices in major exhibitions

In the last twenty years the landscape of contemporary art production has been affected by the rise and proliferation of two venues that showcase artworks: the art fairs and the biennials. These organizations respond to a specific logic dictated by their own constituency in terms of how they conceive their cultural, economic and social function. Through

a series of lectures and readings we will flesh out the logics at work behind major international exhibitions and their role at shaping the artistic production of individual artists and collectives.

Open Lab/Shop

Friday Open Lab/Shop days will be run by the GTA. Each student is required to have sufficient documentation of research and work being created in every Friday class. Failure to present sufficient work in progress during these times will be reflected in project grades. In addition to this, Open Lab/Shop will be conducted during select Monday and Wednesday classes.

Individual meetings

Individual meetings will be conducted throughout the semester on a regular basis. During these meetings students will present work in progress and discuss their plans and timeline for work. If these plans or ideas change, you must inform the instructor either through email or in person for approval. Failure to follow this procedure will affect the project grade.

Assessment

Students taking this course will be evaluated through two elements:

(1) Studio Assignments [65% of grade] Each studio assignment will be graded according to the level of engagement with the critical and conceptual goals of the project. Consistency of work, research efforts, and response to feedback will also be considered.

(2) Participation [35% of final grade] Participation will be graded according to successful completion of reading assignments, input during seminar discussions and group critiques, as well as presentations of research. Please see assignment sheet for detailed information. Late assignments will be marked down 5% for each day they are past due.

Class Attendance

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

Students are required to attend every class meeting. Attendance includes arriving on time and with all materials and equipment necessary to actively participate in that date's discussion, lecture, or presentation. Students arriving without assigned materials will be counted absent on that date. Excused absences require legitimate reasons and documentation. In the case of an absence, students are expected to communicate this in writing (email), and in advance (unless extenuating circumstances prohibit doing so). At the discretion of the instructor, students who have more than three unexcused absences may receive a failing grade for the course. Additionally, a student's grade will be effected if s/he has an unexcused absence or does not present work on their designated critique day.

Digital Devices

Cell phones must be on silent and may be used only in case of emergencies. During seminars, laptops may be used only for research as part of the group discussion. Using any device for non-course related business will negatively impact the student's grade.

Grading Criteria

A: This grade is awarded for exceptional work that demonstrates critical thinking, a full realization of the ideas put forth in assignment, and outstanding engagement of both form and content; excellent amount of effort given to the class and assignments, with minimum lateness and absences; going beyond the basic course requirements through independent work and research; display a strong commitment to learning, being an active member of the class community, and growth as an artist and student.

B: This grade will be awarded for very good work that demonstrates a sound and competent realization of the ideas put

forth in each assignment; excels in many areas but lacks one or more of the outstanding characteristics listed above.
C: This grade will be awarded for well-presented, average work that demonstrates a fairly good attempt at grasping the expectations of each given assignment. This work lacks a competent, comprehensive understanding mentioned in 'B' above.

D: This grade is awarded for inadequate work-- extremely poor and/or half-finished work with no care or attention to the assignment. In addition, when someone has missed three or more classes, has failed to complete one or more assignments, or keep up to date with the studio-based syllabus.

E: When someone stops coming to class and stops communicating with instructor. This is a severe grade and is usually given in severe circumstances.

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 A: 4.0, A-: 3.67, B+:3.33, B:3.00, B-: 2.67, C+: 2.33, C: 2.00, C-: 1.67, D+: 1.33, D: 1.00, D-: .67

UF grading policies can be reviewed at:

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

Health and Safety

<http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/>

Each student must complete a Health and Safety Student Waiver for this course. These forms will be turned in to the School of Art office.

Students with disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

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.

Academic Honesty

The university's codes for honesty and conduct will be upheld. Full information is available at the links below.

Academic Honesty: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty> Honour Code:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> Student Conduct:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

University Counseling & Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662 University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100 352-392-1575

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>