Sophomore Seminar: Broad Shoulders

http://www.saic.edu/academicspine/sophomoreseminar/
Friday 9am-12pm
bldg
room
Instructor: k.g. they/them
kgnato@saic.edu

Course Description

This course is a survey of off-campus artist-focused resources located in Chicago. As a class, we will travel to sites and speak with organizers working to serve Chicago’s artists in a myriad of ways. We will look at these off-campus resources to gather materials not found at the art store, further deepen our research at specialized libraries, locate unexpected influences, and investigate alternative artist-run models of support. Weekly field trips will cater to student’s specific interests. Students will present heavily researched work for critiques, citing all of the resources used to directly support the completion of the work. In tandem with presenting finished pieces student will keep a visual log of their experiences of travel and contribute to an expanded class list of Chicago area resources for artists. Site visits for this course will vary according to students interest and may include The Rebuilding Exchange, The Wasteshed, Spudnik Print cooperative, The Newberry Library, Special Collections Division at Harold Washington Library, The Weaving Mill, The Chicago Parks system and more. Course work includes an ongoing visual log (sketchbook) representing the sites we visit and organizers we meet. This sketchbook is the crux of a semester long studio project made in the student’s chosen medium. The class will culminate with a formal critique addressing the final project with a focus on the support accessed in helping build concepts and attain material and resources for the works completion. Students will present a project proposal, in process work and a final finished piece to their peers.
Requirements/Expectations

To receive a CR grade in this course you must successfully complete all of requirements listed below by their assigned deadline:

DIY Futures Essay DUE:
Self-Reflective Essay DUE:
Process Journal DUE:
Documentation of Practice Assignment DUE:
Attend Jeffrey Gibson Distinguished Alumni Lecture
Monday, October 28 at 6:00 pm
The Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium
230 S. Columbus Dr., Chicago, IL
Participate in the final class project review

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and on time. Any necessary absences should be explained to the instructor. Students who are ill should contact their faculty member or leave a message for the instructor in the department office the day they are absent. For an extended absence due to illness, contact Health Services. Notification is then sent to all instructors informing them of the student’s absence. For other extenuating circumstances contact the Academic Advising office. Please note that the written notification does not excuse a student from classes. The instructor gives students officially enrolled in a course credit only if they have responded adequately to the standards and requirements set. If the instructor does not clarify their requirements and absence policy in the course syllabus, students should ask the instructor. Also note that if a student registers late for a class (during add/drop) the instructor counts the missed classes as absences and the student is responsible for assignments given during those missed days.
More than 3 absences = NCR ( If you are absent 3 times and late once you will not receive credit )

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

SAIC is committed to full compliance with all laws regarding equal opportunities for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities in need of assistance or accommodations should first contact the Disability and Learning Resource Center (DLRC) by phone at 312.499.4278 or email at www.dlrc.saic.edu. DLRC staff will review your disability documentation and work with you to determine reasonable accommodations. They will then provide you with a letter outlining the approved accommodations for you to deliver to all of your instructors. This letter must be presented to me before any accommodations will be implemented. You should contact the DLRC as early in the semester as possible. The DLRC is located on the 13th floor of 116 S Michigan Ave.
This is a field trip heavy course, please bring your UPass to every class session. There will always be travel time factored into the schedule, meaning we will meet at locations at 9:30 and depart at 11:30 to allow time for traveling to and from campus. Field trips are designed to give a broad overview of Chicago’s transportation systems, both bus and train, and to allow for exploration across the myriad of neighborhoods the city is known for.

WK 1. Introduction to course syllabus
   - Projects overview
   - Field trip survey
WK 2. Planning day for final class project, settling into our process journal
   - Individual mtgs with kg
WK 3. Visiting artist/educator/reiki master Olive Stefanski (SAIC 2015 performance) talks about their favorite Chicago resources and how they navigate the city to support their multifaceted practice
WK 4. Field trip to The Wasteshed with private tour
WK 5. Field trip The Comfort Station / Reunion. Spaces for artists to use
WK 6. Field trip The conservatories (Harold Washington Library and Garfield Park)
WK 7. Field trip The rebuilding exchange with private tour
WK 8. Field trip Discount Textile Outlet and National Museum of Mexican Art
WK 9. Field trip Chicago Artist Coalition with tour
WK 10. Field trip tbd
WK 11. Field trip tbd
WK 12. Small group in process critiques / final individual mtgs with kg
WK 13. Final project presentations group 1
WK 14. Final project presentations group 2
Project Description:

Considering the artists resources you are visiting and learning about, you are asked to work on a self directed piece to present for final review on our final class meeting. This piece can truly take any form i.e. sculpture, painting, weaving, sound, poetry, performance, whatever work you've been itching to make since arriving at SAIC. We will develop this piece through individual meetings, small group critques and on site discussions during field trips. You will present a process journal that tracks your development of this work in relationship to resources you accessed while working on this project. This project must be documented from beginning to end and uploaded as Documentation Of Practice assignment on Canvas.

DIY Futures:

Write an essay that describes who you are as a creative practitioner, where you imagine your practice might take you, and how you plan to utilize the time, space, and resources during your remaining time at SAIC. In other words, while holding who you are as a practitioner and your future vision in mind, how can your time here at SAIC work in service of your vision and goals as an artist, designer, scholar, professional? In order to design your own curricular map, you will need to research specific SAIC classes, summer work, and/or co-curricular experiences (see below for some suggested resources).

Self Reflective Essay:

Write an essay that reflects on what you have learned as a student at SAIC. The essay must address each of the following: Strengths, Creative Production, Contextualization, Critique, and Community. Identify the most important catalyst for your growth: reading, writing, projects, critique, or some combination? Drawing from both your DIY Futures Essay and experience in this course, articulate how you will leverage the tools, time, and space needed to best support the development of your creative practice. Write a two- to three-page paper that summarizes your experience in the Sophomore Seminar.