Interdisciplinary Sophomore Seminar
PTDW 2900
Mondays 1-4pm
Advising meetings Mondays 12-1
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What are the concerns that drive one’s creative practice? How does one set the terms for its future development? Sophomore Seminar offers interdisciplinary strategies for the evaluation and communication of students’ individual practice as artists, designers, and/or scholars. Through essential readings, studio projects, and writing, students will generate narratives about how and why they make art. To do so, they will investigate methods (visual, critical, written, and creative) for the reconsideration of their work and of its aims and priorities.

Individual mentoring with the faculty member is a central and dedicated component of the class as a means of fostering the self-identification of goals and priorities.

Students will also examine historical and contemporary precedents that relate to their own work in order to consider the ways in which their individual explorations can be brought into dialogue with other perspectives. Students participate in broad ranging discussions about the present status and future prospects of art and design through workshops, dialogues, and collaborations both in the class and in SAIC-wide conversations.

An important function of this course is to build upon these insights in forming a practical plan that helps students effectively map the curriculum and resources of SAIC into their own needs.

Course Texts:


Art/work : everything you need to know (and do) as you pursue your art career, Bhandari et. al. Free Press, 2009.

Major Assignments and Activities:

*DIY Futures Essay:* Students articulate their goals and imagine a pathway for themselves as students and as developing artists, designers, and scholars.

*Self-Reflective Essay:* Students reflect on what they’ve learned in the course as well as in their overall educational experience.

*Response to artist interview:* interview an artist whose work interests you. Take notes or record your conversation (with permission). After the interview, write an essay to discuss what you learned from the interview. What surprised you? How might the discussion impact your own work or your own career? What questions do you wish you would’ve asked?

*Documentation of Practice Assignment:* In this end-of-term assignment, students work closely with faculty throughout the semester to document a project from sketch to advanced stage, thinking about creative decision-making and process.