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(she/her)
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SAIC
Sophomore Seminar Draft for Spring 2020

- Your chosen course title (check with your department)

  Sophomore Seminar

- Your chosen course description (about 250 words, check with your department), or the standard course description

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.

- 3 to 5 key reading
  - Appendix Project: Talks and Essays, Kate Zambreno
  - Les goddesses : Hemlock forest, Moyra Davey
  - The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life, Twyla Tharp
  - The Studio Reader: On the Space of Artists, Mary Jane Jacob and Michelle Grabner
  - Air Guitar - Dave Hickey
  - Field Guide to Getting Lost, The Blue of Distance, Rebecca Solnit
• 3 to 5 key class activities/highlights (see Sample Assignment section).
  • Critiques
  • Multiple Rounds of the Creative Capital Writing Exercise (by Susan Koblin Schear)
    o Write 7 words about your artwork in general or about a new project you are working on.
    o Expand the list to 14 words.
    o Now use those words to come up with a one paragraph artist statement or project description.
    o The interview: Give whatever you wrote in step 3 to a friend and ask them to ask questions about your work or your statement and write down what you say in response. Now take the paper back, ask your friend questions about your statement, and write down his/her responses.
    o Using the notes from the interviews, rework your statement or pitch.
  • Experimental short essays
    o 1 pg exploring your ideas through the language of another discipline.
    o 1 pg positioning your practice in relation to one of your art idols.
    o 1 pg about your work from an alter ego or fictional critic
  • DIY Futures Essay
  • Self-Reflective Essay
  • Documentation of Practice - embracing iterations and documenting process