Fine Art Capstone

Art 601 • Fall 2018 • T 2:00 – 3:30 pm • Russell Hall 003

Instructor: Summer Zickefoose
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Office: Patterson Hall 311
Office Hours: Tuesday 11 am - 12:00 pm, Wednesday 9 – 10 am or by appointment

Course Description:
Capstone for the Art Major is the completion and formal presentation of a series of works that demonstrates a student’s skill and intellect within the visual arts. The student submits a written project proposal within the parameters of completed art courses at Westminster in the spring prior to Capstone. Once the faculty review and approve the proposal, recommendations are made to the student as to the scope of production: scale and quantity, media, and exhibition responsibilities. Themes must be within the skill level and experience of the student. Research into the topic and media is required. Faculty members guide and mentor the student through the primary creative phase of the project and resulting exhibition in the spring semester of their senior year. The student and faculty will set up weekly or bi-weekly meetings to review progress throughout the capstone semester. Group critiques will provide additional feedback on the project. And artist/project statement will accompany the visual projects and help further frame the research and process supporting the project.

Course Objectives:
• to develop independent research skills related to art-making beyond the classroom
• hone writing skills related to and in support of the artwork
• develop professional portfolio materials to support post-graduate opportunities
• pursue independent goals in the art studio
• continue to develop visual and content aspects of artwork

Course Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
• apply visual and analytical thinking to the world around them
• have a greater understanding of and clarity in their voice as an artist
• apply their creative, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills to further art making and/or professional goals after graduation.

Supplementary Texts and Resources:
Art and Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking, David Bayles and Ted Orland
Art21: Art in the 21st Century, PBS documentary series
http://www.pbs.org/art21/
TED Talks: Art, TED Conferences, LLC.
http://www.ted.com/topics/art

Methodology:
Weekly meetings will provide ongoing dialogue with the instructor in relation to the project as well as opportunities for brainstorming, problem-solving, and project assistance. Progress will be expected at each meeting in terms of quality of work and quantity. At each meeting, the student should have both new work started and work that is nearly or fully completed. In addition to the ongoing progress meetings with one or both art professors, the course will also include group critiques at midterm and end-of-the-semester. Grades will kept on D2L.
**Process/Research Documentation:**
All preparatory design work, ideas, writing, brainstorming may all be part of the process for generating ideas and inspiration for your project. This could include found images, photographs, sketches, lists, diagrams, mathematical equations, color samples, or absolutely anything that is part of your process of idea generation and problem-solving. You will need to contain/document your capstone project and process somewhere – whether via a blog, in a sketchbook, loose papers in a folder, etc. Progress should be shown in this area along with weekly progress on the project.

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria:**
You will be evaluated in this course by the quality of work in terms of crafting the material and conceptual depth and clarity. Effort and enthusiasm towards your ongoing project is an important factor in your overall evaluation. Your evaluation will also include regular completion/progress of work and participation in critiques. Your overall project is evaluated according to the design/formal qualities, creativity and development of the concept, craft and presentation and the effort put towards planning out the project and idea generation.

**Project Evaluation:**
- Design/Formal Qualities: 25 pts
- Creativity/Conceptual Development: 20 pts
- Craft and Presentation: 10 pts
- Effort, Ambition, Preparation: 10 pts
- Total: 65 pts

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects Grades (2 @ 65 pts ea)</td>
<td>130pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress Grades (10 @ 7pts ea)</td>
<td>70pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artist/Project Statement</td>
<td>25pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (Critiques, art events)</td>
<td>15pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>240pts possible</td>
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**Grading Scale**
- 240-226 = A
- 225-216 = A-
- 215-209 = B+
- 208-199 = B
- 198-192 = B-
- 191-185 = C+
- 184-175 = C
- 174-168 = C-
- 167-161 = D+
- 160-151 = D
- 150-144 = D-
- 143-0 = F

**Schedule**
- Weekly Progress Grades: Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 27
- Midterm Critique and Project Grade: Oct. 9
- Rough Draft Artist/Project Statement: Nov. 6
- Final Draft Artist/Project Statement: Dec. 4
- Final Critique and Project Grade: Dec. 6

**Attendance:**
Attendance does not merit points towards your final grade, however, poor attendance can detract points from your final grade. Good attendance illustrates your engagement with the course and increases your ability to progress smoothly with your project. You should come to each meeting and/or critique prepared and with new work, ideas, research and questions. A maximum of 2 absences (excused or unexcused) will be allowed without consequence. More than 2 absences will reduce your final grade by 1 letter grade per additional absence. If you have missed 6 or more classes, you will automatically fail the course.

**Academic Integrity:**
Students are expected to abide by the academic integrity policies outlined in the Westminster College Student Handbook. The Westminster College faculty and students are bound by principles of truth and honesty that are recognized as fundamental for a community of teachers and scholars. The college expects students and faculty to honor, and faculty to enforce, these academic principles. All forms of cheating are prohibited, including but not limited to the following: plagiarism, submitting work previously submitted for grading in another course, misrepresentation, falsification, fabrication, or professional misconduct. Any form of cheating will result in an automatic F for the assignment, and the issue will be presented to the Academic Dean for review. I utilize turnitin.com as a tool in checking student writing for plagiarism.
Accessibility Statement:
Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students who have special needs that may affect their academic or personal life should seek resources on campus to assist them, such as Disability Resources, the Learning Center and Diversity Services. In this course, accommodations consistent with college policy will be made for students who are utilizing appropriate support services. After consulting with the appropriate support service, students are encouraged to speak with me in a confidential appointment about necessary accommodations.
Disability Resources: Thompson-Clark 209, craigfa@westminster.edu, 724-946-7192
Diversity Services: McKelvey Suite 240, diversity@westminster.edu, 724-946-6178
Learning Center: McGill Library 206, learningctr@westminster.edu